THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS
BENGALURU • SUNDAY • JUNE 28, 2026 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 26 • LATE CITY EDITION

DELHI, J&K FEEL TREMORS AFTER QUAKE IN AFGHAN

A 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan on Saturday evening, sending tremors across parts of Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir and the Delhi-NCR region. According to the National Centre for Seismology, the earthquake occurred at 7.04 pm IST. The epicentre was located in Afghanistan at a depth of 215 km. The US Geological Survey said the quake was centred south of Jurm.

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಚುನಾವಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka

INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE, ETHICAL & PARTICIPATIVE ELECTION

BE A PART OF SIR 2026

The purpose of SIR (Special Intensive Revision) is to include all eligible citizen in the voter list. During this SIR, check and ensure your name is in the voter list. Become a part of the foundation of democracy.

Description	Date
Qualifying Date	1st October, 2026
House to House Visits by BLO's	30th June, 2026 to 29th July, 2026
Publication of Draft Electoral Roll	5th August, 2026
Period for filing Claims & Objections	5th August, 2026 to 4th September 2026
Notice Phase/Disposal of Claims & Objections	5th August, 2026 to 3rd October 2026
Publication of Final Electoral Roll	7th October, 2026

What will BLOs (Booth Level Officers) do?

- Will provide enumeration forms to all voters who were on the electrol roll as of 16th June 2026.
- Will visit your homes between 30th June 2026 to 29th July 2026.
- Will give you two copies of the enumeration form and will help you to fill the form.
- Will collect the enumeration form you filled out and give you a receipt for it.

Elector is requested to:

- Fill out both forms given by the BLO.
- Affix one recent color photo on the form. (This is not mandatory).
- Contact the BLO if you need help in filling the form or uploading it online.
- Hand over the filled forms to the BLO and collect the receipt

Publication of Draft Electoral Roll - 5th August, 2026 (Wednesday)

Eligibility for Elector

As per article 326 of The Constitution of India:

- Citizen of India.
- At least 18 years of age.
- Ordinarily Resident of the constituency.
- Not disqualified under any laws.

How to know if your name is in the Draft Voter List?

You can check

- From the voter list kept by the Booth Level Officer (BLO).
- From the ECINET mobile app.
- You can check the voter list at voters.eci.gov.in.
- You can check it from the websites of CEO Karnataka & the concerned District Election Officer.

What to do if your name is not in the Draft Voter List?

You need to fill Form 6 and submit it along with declaration form. You can submit it to the Booth Level Officer (BLO) or apply online at voters.eci.gov.in or via ECINET app.

List of Indicative (not exhaustive) Documents

1. Any Identity card/Pension Payment Order issued to regular employee/pensioner of any Central Govt./State Govt./PSU
2. Any Identity Card/Certificate/Document issued in India by Government/local authorities/Banks/Post Office/LIC/PSUs prior to 01.07.1987
3. Birth Certificate issued by the competent authority
4. Passport
5. Matriculation/Educational certificate issued by recognised Boards/universities
6. Permanent Residence certificate issued by competent State authority
7. Forest Right Certificate
8. OBC/SC/ST or any caste certificate issued by the Competent authority
9. National Register of Citizens (wherever it exists)
10. Family Register maintained by Govt. officials under any Statute/Administrative/Regulation
11. Any land/house allotment certificate by Government
12. For Aadhaar, Commission's directions issued vide letter No. 23/2025-ERS/Vol.II dated 09.09.2025 shall apply

Application Forms:	
Form 6	New voter registration
Form 6A	Overseas voter registration
Form 7	Deletion of name
Form 8	Shifting of Residence/Correction of Entries/ Replacement of EPIC/Marking of PWD

APPEAL PROVISION

An appeal under Section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 on any decision of the ERO lies with the District Magistrate (District Election Officer)

ECINET MOBILE APP

Scan QR Code to Download App

Google play | App Store

For more information please visit

https://www.ceo.karnataka.gov.in

Visit the official portal https://voters.eci.gov.in

TOLL FREE 1950 180042551950

ceokarnataka

ceo.karnataka.gov.in

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Sunday:** 28.06.2026 • **Year:** Parabhava • **Ayana:** Uttharayana
• **Ritu:** Greeshma • **Masa:** Nija Jyeshta • **Paksha:** Sukla • **Tithi:** Chaturdasi 2.07 am
• **Nakshatra:** Jyeshta 4.00 am • Moon in Dhanur Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm
• **Gulikakala:** 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER | MIN 22°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST Passing showers. Overcast

Sunrise 05.56 am | Sunset 06.49 pm | Moonrise 05.38 pm | Moonset 04.15 am

Free of Cost
No Age Bar For Love & Companionship
No Bar For Caste & Religion
Senior Citizens Match Making Event
50+
Single Men & Women
ORGANISED BY : ANUBANDH FOUNDATION, AHMEDAB
:: CONTACT ::
8320372264
Bhupatbhai Soni : 9426425
Kinnari Lakhani : 836933

Helping love bloom in autumn of their lives

Since its inception in 2002, Anubandh Foundation has been organising matchmaking events for elderly widows, widowers and divorcees

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

IT was an assemblage of widows, widowers and divorcees from across the country, all gathered for a senior citizens' matchmaking event in Bengaluru on June 6. It reflected a quiet but growing reality among older adults -- the loneliness after loss and search for companionship in later part of life.

For many participants, the gathering was not just about remarriage alone, but about finding an emotional connection, care and another person to share everyday life with after years of living in isolation or within shrinking family circles. While some arrived alone, others were accompanied by their children, relatives or close friends, hoping to find love that they lost, denied and forgotten.

Organised by the Anubandh Foundation, the Bengaluru event marked its fourth edition and drew attention to a growing emotional need often spoken about only in private.

The initiative is the brainchild of Natubhai Patel, the foundation president, who started it after witnessing the devastating impact of the 2001 Gujarat earthquake on individuals. While serving as a superintendent with the Union Ministry of Planning in Kutch district, he saw people left alone after losing their spouses and that impacted him deeply.

"The hotel where I was staying collapsed. I met many people who lost their spouses and were left alone. That experience stayed with me," Patel said.

The foundation has been working across India since 2002 to help senior citizens find companionship, maintaining a database of over 12,000 individuals and facilitating 225 marriages.

Inquiries increased significantly after Covid as many elderly people lost partners and were left isolated. "After a certain age, if you lose your partner, your children are often busy with their own families. At that stage, you need someone who understands you and spends time with you. Love is ageless and timeless. Whether you are 50, 60, 70 or 80, the need for companionship remains," he said.

For Rajendra Prasad Sureka, 80, from Kolkata, the silence of living alone is difficult to accept. "After my wife passed away, I became alone with no one to talk to and no one to spend time with. At this age, I need someone who can care for me and whom I can care for in return." He said such initiatives should be organised more frequently as many elderly people silently struggle with isolation. For 69-year-old Jaya Rao, a single parent and divorcee, companionship was something she began seeking only after years of responsibility had passed. "It is just loneliness and nothing else. Once children grow up and settle into their own lives, you start feeling the absence of someone to share life with," she said.

She eventually met her current partner Om Prakash Chadha after 25 years of being a single mother, after attending a "Jeevan Sathi Sammelan", organised by the foundation in 2024. Initially hesitant, she was encouraged by organisers to participate in a process that prioritises gradual interaction, mutual understanding and consent over urgency or pressure.

The experience, she reflected, came after a long emotional journey shaped by years of responsibility and absence of companionship. Even after fulfilling familial duties, a sense of emotional vacuum remained, becoming more pronounced once children became independent and personal responsibilities reduced.

Those who participated in the Bengaluru event highlighted a broader set of challenges faced by women seeking companionship later in life. Deep-rooted social conditioning often discourages women from considering new partnerships, while age itself brings additional barriers of rigidity, reduced social freedom and expectations of adjustment in areas such as lifestyle, habits and compatibility. For many, financial independence also plays a crucial role in whether they are able to pursue companionship without hesitation. Despite these challenges, companionship in later life is increasingly being viewed as a source of emotional balance and renewed purpose.

According to Rao, it restores a sense of shared living where even routine moments such as walking or conversation carry added meaning. Padmashree, 53, a divorcee from Karnataka, represents a similar yet distinct reality of long years spent searching for companionship while balancing parental responsibilities. Limited awareness and low participation in such events were noted as key gaps, affecting opportunities for meaningful connection.

Many said that while ageing often brings reduced social circles and increased dependence on routine family roles, the need for someone to talk to, share time with and rely on emotionally remains unchanged.

Many participants showed a clear preference for in-person interaction over digital meetups. Concerns around authenticity, incomplete information and lack of transparency in online dating systems have led to a stronger trust in face-to-face meetings, where personality, behaviour and compatibility can be assessed more directly.

These experiences point to a gradual but visible shift in how companionship in later life is being approached. The elderly are moving from silence and social hesitation to more open and structured spaces that acknowledge emotional needs beyond age and a reminder that life and love don't stop until you decide to.

A convict has painted the walls of Mangaluru Central Prison with idyllic scenes of life in Tulunadu and portraits of national heroes Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh to keep the flame of hope alive for the inmates

ABHIJITH N KOLPE @ Mangaluru

Tryst with art BEHIND THE BARS

THE walls of Mangaluru Central Prison have been turned into a vibrant art gallery, filled with murals depicting national heroes, cultural heritage, and the traditions of Tulunadu, created by an inmate accused in a settlement-related case.

Surendran, a Kasaragod resident, was imprisoned three months ago, has nurtured a passion for painting since childhood. He completed a three-year course in painting and fine arts and had also conducted drawing classes for students on weekends before ending up in prison.

Recognising his artistic talent, prison superintendent Sharanabasappa encouraged him to utilise his skills constructively and assigned him to paint the prison walls, significantly improving the appearance of the premises. The prison walls now feature portraits of Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh.

Surendran, skilled in monochrome painting, Warli art, and others, is helped by two other inmates who are professionally trained art directors, assisting him in markings and graphing to ensure precision. The colourful paintings have enhanced the aesthetic appeal of the prison and have created a positive atmosphere for the inmates as well as the staff.

Sharanabasappa said that in the last 10 days, these individuals have undertaken painting work. The prison started providing necessary materials to Surendran after recognising his talent. They work from 8 am to 12 pm and 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm. Pictures of freedom fighters and cultural themes of Tulunadu have been painted. Paintings of Yakshagana, Abdul Kalam, Kambala, and tiger dance will also be made.

Inmates at Mangaluru prison paint vibrant Yakshagana murals on prison walls. (Below) An inmate etches a monochrome portrait of freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on the prison wall

The prison authorities are now planning to introduce skill development courses in collaboration with the State Skills Development Board and RUDSET Institute, Dharmasthala, including CCTV repair courses and fast-food preparation training conducted by NGOs.

Inmates also said that this initiative has helped them engage in constructive activities, reduce negative thoughts and find mental relief.

BNP seeks audit of ₹2k-cr road package

BENGALURU: Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) on Saturday alleged that the fund allocated for the development of roads in the city is being spent inappropriately. According to BNP, a considerable part of the Rs 2,000-crore package to fix potholes, roadwork, rainwater runoff management and to prevent waterlogging is being spent on construction of offices for MLAs. BNP founder Srikanth Narasimhan said Congress MLAs are given up to Rs 100 crore for development of their respective areas, while those from opposition parties are given only Rs 60 crore.

Kempegowda Jayanti at GBA HQ

BENGALURU: As part of the 517th birth anniversary celebrations of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda on Saturday, Bengaluru city corporations paid floral tributes to Kempegowda. Bengaluru Central Municipal Corporation Commissioner Jagadeesha G paid tributes to Kempegowda at GBA head office at NR Square. Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner KN Ramesh, showered flower petals on the portrait of Kempegowda on the Corporation premises. He also visited the memorial of Kempegowda's daughter-in-law, the great martyr Tyagi Lakshmi Devi, in Koramangala to pay tributes.

The Karnataka government on Saturday celebrated the 517th birth anniversary of Bengaluru founder Nadaprabhu Kempegowda with grandeur. The day was marked by a series of events across the city, including a 15 lakh sapling plantation drive that set a Guinness World Record, the inauguration of a 10-lane road named after former Chief Minister SM Krishna, a marathon, a walkathon and garlanding of Kempegowda statues

B'luru pays rich tributes to visionary founder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister DK Shivakumar announced that the government would erect 'Walls of Gratitude' to honour landowners who voluntarily part with their land for public infrastructure projects such as roads, industrial areas, schools and lakes.

He was speaking at Kempegowda's 517th birth anniversary celebrations held at the Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA's) Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout on Saturday.

He said the initiative will first be implemented along the newly inaugurated SM Krishna Road and will eventually form part of the proposed 123-km Bengaluru Business Corridor. Shivakumar said the names of all those who contributed land for the project would be permanently inscribed on the wall.

As part of efforts to create a greener Bengaluru, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) planted 15 lakh saplings across the city in a single day, setting a Guinness World Record. The CM proposed involving schoolchildren in maintaining green spaces by assigning each school a specific area and organising competitions to encourage nurturing trees.

The CM also announced the establishment of a Kempegowda Study Centre at Bengaluru University. He said Minister KH Muniyappa had allotted 9.5 acres of land for the centre, while development works worth Rs 10 crore were being undertaken at Hutridurga.

"Criticism fades, but good work remains," Shivakumar said, adding that while the Peripheral Ring Road proposal had remained on paper for years, the present government had initiated concrete steps to implement it.

Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara said Bengaluru's global stature was the result of Kempegowda's vision and the contributions of leaders such as former Chief Minister SM Krishna, under whose tenure the IT revolution transformed the city. He said the proposed township at Bidadi would help reduce pressure on Bengaluru and alleged that the Opposition was unnecessarily opposing the project.

Parameshwara said Karnataka had attracted investment commitments worth Rs 10.25 lakh crore and stressed the need for continued infrastructure development to address traffic and water challenges.

Ministers KH Muniyappa, Krishna Byre Gowda and Dr G Parameshwara, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and BDA Chairman and Shantinagar MLA NA Haris inaugurate a sapling planting drive near SM Krishna Dashapatha Road at Challagatta in Bengaluru on Saturday. MLA ST Somashekhar and MLC K Govindaraj look on | VINOD KUMAR T

BDA plants 15 lakh saplings

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on Saturday planted 15 lakh native saplings across Bengaluru in a single day, marking one of India's largest green cover initiatives and reinforcing Karnataka's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Organised to commemorate Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Jayanti, the drive witnessed participation from thousands of citizens, students, government officials, NGOs, resident welfare associations and corporate volunteers. Saplings were planted at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Banashankari 6th Stage, Dr Shivarama Karanth Layout, Oxygen Tree Parks and Miyawaki forests. The initiative, coupled with the Kempegowda Run 2026, aims to enhance green cover, improve air quality and strengthen biodiversity across Bengaluru.

A Vishwamanava, not just Vokkaliga icon, says DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday said Bengaluru founder Nadaprabhu Kempegowda evolved beyond caste identity to become a Vishwamanava (universal human), urging people to follow his ideals.

"Kempegowda was born a Vokkaliga but grew into a Vishwamanava (universal human). We must all walk along this very path," the Chief Minister said while addressing the Kempegowda Jayanthi celebrations in Yelahanka.

Highlighting Kempegowda's vision, Shivakumar said Bengaluru's global prominence is rooted in the city founder's foresight.

"The whole world is watching Bengaluru. The reason for this is Nadaprabhu Kempegowda. Five hundred years ago, he performed pooja and built the city. The residents of Bengaluru should not forget this. When he built this city, he did not know it would grow on such a large scale. But his foresight has stood the test of time," he said.

Referring to the city's rapid expansion, the Chief Minister said the government is planning for Bengaluru's "vertical growth" and has drawn up a development programme worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore.

"Kempegowda is not the property of the Vokkaliga community alone. Programmes in his honour must include people from all castes and religions. Only then will it amount to paying true respect to Kempegowda," he said.

Shivakumar also expressed concern over the possibility of drought this year despite good rainfall over the past three years.

"For the past three years, there has been good rainfall. But this year, there is a likelihood of drought across the country. We must all come together to face the drought. We must save our farmers," he said.

Kempegowda statues at KIA, Vidhana Soudha garlanded

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, along with Nirmalananda Natha Swami of Adichunchanagiri, Nanjavadhuta Swami of Sphatikapuri in Sira taluk, and Nishchalananda Natha Mahaswami of the Vishwa Vokkaligara Samsthana, offered floral tributes to the 108-foot-tall bronze statue of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda near the Kempegowda International Airport in Devanahalli.

Later, he garlanded the Kempegowda statue on the Vidhana Soudha premises and said comprehensive development works worth Rs 100 crore are underway at Kempegowda's fort in Magadi.

THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • JUNE 28, 2026 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 26 • LATE CITY EDITION

Cape Verde players rejoice after the match against Saudi Arabia on Friday | AP

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianxpress
twitter.com/newindianxpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

CAPE VERDE CELEBRATE THEIR GREATEST SPORTING NIGHT

A small group of islands off Africa's west coast continue World Cup fairytale; advance into knockout stage after 0-0 draw with Saudi Arabia

MEETING WITH ARGENTINA AWAITS NEWBIES

Nobody gave them a prayer when they qualified for the World Cup but the debutants, paired with former champions Spain and Uruguay as well as Saudi in Group H, equipped themselves well over their three group games. Players and support staff became heroes. A reward for finishing second in the group is a meeting in the first knockout tie against holders Argentina

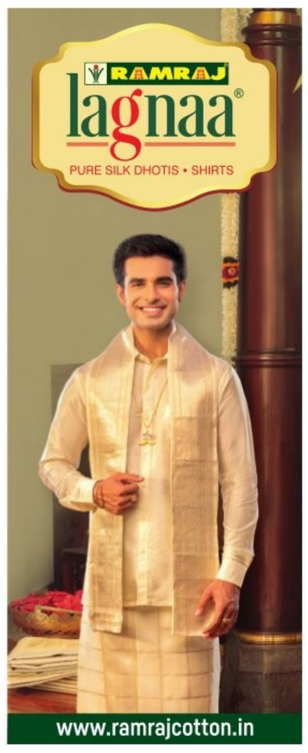
KNOCKOUT ROUNDS FROM TODAY

- The first of the knockout ties will be held on Sunday night (IST) when hosts Canada face South Africa in Los Angeles
- Two-time champions Uruguay, meanwhile, lost to Spain and bowed out of the tournament at the first of asking. Belgium advanced after big win over New Zealand while Iran await fate | P13

1974

France first team to have 2 players on 4 or more goals in group stages since 1974

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI



It's official, Ram temple Trust gen secy & VHP V-P Champat Rai quits

Pressure built up after RSS gen secy Hosabale questioned Rai over the alleged donation swindle

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

THE Shree Ram Janmabhumi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Saturday confirmed the resignations of general secretary Champat Rai and trustee Dr Anil Mishra following allegations of embezzlement of temple donation funds and valuables.

In a letter released to the media, Trust treasurer Mahant Govind Giri said both leaders had submitted their resignations, which would be formally taken up at the next meeting of the Trust.

Expressing shock and hurt over the allegations, Govind Giri emphasized the Trust's commitment to a fair and transparent probe. "The temple trust assures devotees who have donated silver bricks, ornaments and other valuables in the service of Lord Ram that their offerings are safe," he stated.

Champat Rai

The resignations came on the heels of a Special Investigation Team unravelling mismanagement in donation collection in its preliminary report to the UP government. Based on its findings, the police filed an FIR and arrested eight persons.

Though neither Rai nor Mishra was named in the FIR, their role in not reporting the matter on time came under scrutiny. The eight arrested include Rai's former driver, who allegedly held the keys to the 'hundi' without authority. Rai is also VHP's vice president.

Highly-placed sources said the twin resignations followed intense pressure after a Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) meeting in Haridwar on June 18-19. RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale reportedly questioned Champat Rai and others over alleged irregularities.

Even during Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's visit to Ayodhya on June 19, Champat Rai was kept away from official programmes. On Thursday night, he received calls from RSS and VHP leaders advising resignation to contain the controversy. On Friday morning, both Rai and Mishra submitted their resignations to Trust president Mahant Nritya Gopal Das at Mani Ramdas Ji's camp. The Trust and VHP maintained silence through Friday evening.

Trust to meet on July 7

VHP chief Alok Kumar said on Saturday that the Ram Temple Trust will meet in Ayodhya on July 7 to decide on the next course of action following the resignation of the two senior Trust functionaries. He said he hopes that a chief executive officer is appointed to manage the affairs of the temple.

FRESH STRIKES
BY IRAN, US AMID HORMUZ ROW

Iran unleashed a drone assault on Bahrain and a ship was attacked in Hormuz on Saturday, hours after the US struck Iran over 'truce violation' | P11

Teachers' test now put off after Maha paper leak

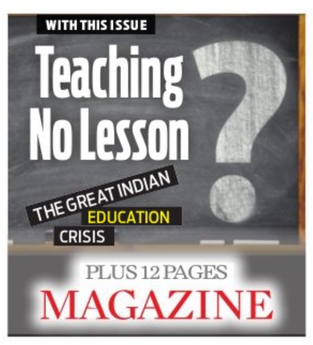
SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

WEEKS after the leak of NEET-UG exam paper kicked up a political firestorm, the Maharashtra Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), scheduled for Sunday, was abruptly postponed after the police found leaked question papers during a raid at a hotel in Thane district on Saturday.

The Maharashtra State Examination Council said the TET 2026 exam, scheduled for June 28 at 1,028 centres across the state, has been postponed to maintain the transparency and integrity of the examination process.

Acting on a tip-off, the police conducted a raid at the Diamond Hotel in Bhiwandi, where they found certain individuals in possession of TET question papers. Three persons have been arrested.

The Maharashtra State Examination Council officials were called to verify the material. After a close inspection, it was confirmed that several questions in the leaked paper matched those in the actual question paper.



TRANSPARENCY PUSH

Needless secrecy over failures of PSLV: Scientists

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE Ministry of Science and Technology's refusal to publicly share the Failure Analysis Committee (FAC) report on the back-to-back PSLV-C61 and C62 mission failures has sparked concern among space scientists and private industry players.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh recently said the report was out and anomalies were detected, but that they cannot share it on a public platform. Singh also acknowledged that experts were working on resolving it.

But scientists said such secrecy is counterproductive at a time when the government is actively seeking private sector participation in India's space programme. Sources in Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) said the policy push includes Expression of Interest for transferring Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3) technology to private hands, following similar moves for PSLV and SSLV.

A senior space scientist, speaking anonymously, said the industry was invited because ISRO demonstrated its strength and was prepping to focus on advanced projects. "But when basics go wrong and information is withheld, why would companies invest?" he asked. The PSLV-C61 mission on May 18, 2025 failed due to a pressure drop in the third-stage motor chamber, preventing the EOS-09 satellite from reaching its intended 534 km Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit. "The C-61 mission was not successful because of nozzle throat failure. The material was not right. Graphite was imported for the nozzle throat. This was changed to a carbon-composite component for C-62, which also did not succeed. The question which arose was whether it was fully ready for industrial use or not," the space scientist said. P6

When the basics are not right, why will some other company invest? Just as accuracy, quick technological advances and safety, transparency is also important

ISRO scientist

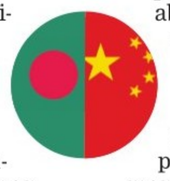
Lack of clarity

Another senior ISRO scientist, refusing to be identified, said the PSLV twin failures raised questions if diagnosis done during C-61 mission was right and if the solutions listed were addressed in C-62.

India out, B'desh hands Mongla project to China

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

BANGLADESH'S decision to hand over the development of an economic zone at Mongla Port to a Chinese state-owned company marks a significant shift in Dhaka's strategic and economic engagement with China in the wake of the just-concluded visit by Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to Beijing.



The project will be developed on around 110 acres of land adjacent the Mongla Port in Bagerhat, land that was originally earmarked for an Indian economic zone but was later delisted under the Muhammad Yunus-led administration as India-Bangladesh ties deteriorated. Mongla, Bangladesh's second-largest and second-busiest port after Chittagong, lies about 188 km from Kolkata and close to the Sundarbans, giving it considerable strategic heft.

Sources familiar with the development said plans include setting up manufacturing industries, warehouses and storage facilities in the economic zone. The Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) has signed a memorandum of understanding with China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation.

Beijing sought to downplay any geopolitical implications of its growing partnership with Dhaka. Responding to questions over India's concerns, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said, "China-Bangladesh cooperation does not target any third party and should be free from third-party influence."

The joint statement issued after the talks said both sides agreed to "jointly advance the Mongla Port Facilities Modernization and Expansion Project" and the development of the Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone in Chattogram. It added that the Chinese side would "provide support and help within its capacity to the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project".

The Teesta project has drawn close attention in India because the river flows close to the India-Bangladesh border and has implications for India's northeastern region.

Policy shift in Dhaka

The Bangladesh-China deal on Mongla Port economic zone is widely seen as a major policy shift in a region New Delhi has traditionally regarded as its immediate neighbourhood

MIRACLE BABY

A videograb shows a newborn pulled out from under the rubble of buildings in earthquake-hit Venezuela's La Guaira after an emotional rescue on Friday night | X | P11

CM to launch Tunnel Road project today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister DK Shivakumar will lay the foundation stone for the controversial Tunnel Road project on Sunday. The big-ticket project, which is projected as the panacea for Bengaluru's traffic congestion, will connect Hebbal with Silk Board and is expected to cost over Rs 17,000 crore.

The foundation stone programme is planned amidst wide opposition to the CM's pet project. Shivakumar will hold 'bhoomi pooja' for the short tunnel between Hebbal junction and the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) at Rs 1,139 crore.

Addressing the media on Saturday, Transport Minister and Hebbal MLA Byrathi Suresh said that the 2.18 km short tunnel will ease traffic on the stretch between Mekhri Circle and Hebbal Junction. The announcement comes days after a private agency bagged the tender to build the tunnel and conducted the soil testing near the UAS quarters and surroundings.

"Due to traffic snarls on the Hebbal stretch, it was difficult to go to other places, including the airport. The government has decided to build a tunnel road to solve this pressing issue," said Suresh.

As there could be an issue of delay and excuses from the agency that has bagged the tender, the Minister stressed that the contractors have been instructed to complete the work strictly within the stipulated time frame.

"Opposition parties are opposing just for the sake of it. This project is being implemented for the benefit of lakhs of people," he said.

The total stretch of the short tunnel is 2.228 kilometres, connecting Hebbal Junction to UAS staff quarters.

The tunnel will be about 60 feet below the surface and will come with a 6-lane road feature. Each lane will be 3.5 meters wide. P7

Man explodes bomb sitting inside car near Tumakuru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tumakuru

IN a ghastly incident, a man allegedly blew up an explosive even as he was sitting inside a rented car on Bengaluru-Pune NH-48 at Jogihalli village in Sira taluk near Tumakuru on Saturday afternoon. While he was charred to death, his estranged girlfriend, whom he had stabbed, and the driver of the car managed to escape.

The car blown up by Nagendra on NH-48 near Tumakuru | EXPRESS

The deceased, Nagendra (30), who was a shopkeeper, had allegedly kidnapped his girlfriend of seven years, Ramya Ullas, from Bengaluru and was taking her to their village Agasuru in Ankola when the strange drama unfolded. Nagendra was said to have arrived in Bengaluru over a week ago and was pestering Ramya to marry him. Ramya works as a technician at Sanjay Gandhi Hospital at Jayanagar in Bengaluru.

After abducting Ramya from her paying guest accommodation in Bengaluru, he started arguing with her in the car. As their tiff escalated, Nagendra pulled out a knife and stabbed her. A terrified Ramya screamed and jumped out of the moving car. The driver, who was petrified seeing the horrific scene on the backseat, stopped the car and escaped.

Nagendra, who was still inside the car, switched on the central locking system and blew up the explosive he brought along. He was charred to death and the car was gutted by the time a fire fighters arrived at the spot.

Nagendra seemed prepared for the extreme action as he had carried the explosive as well as the knife, police sources said. "We are yet to ascertain whether he used a petrol bomb or country made bomb for the explosion," said Superintendent of Police Ashok KV, adding that the samples have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory in Bengaluru.

Ramya was shifted to the district hospital and is recuperating. Her roommate has filed a complaint about the abduction, the SP said. Kallambella police have registered a case.

13-yr-old bags chess silver

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

BENGALURU-BASED Pratitee Bordoloi, a 13-year-old Woman FIDE Master (WFM), created history by winning the silver medal in the Girls Under-18 category at the International Chess Federation World Youth Chess Championship at Montesilvano, Italy.

India's only medallist at the event, she also secured her first Woman International Master (WIM) norm, said the Karnataka State Chess Association on Saturday. P6

EXPRESS READ

Actor-filmmaker Bhagyaraj passes away at 73

CHENNAI: Veteran actor-filmmaker K Bhagyaraj, known for being one of Indian cinema's master scenarists, passed away in Chennai on Saturday due to cardiac arrest. He was 73. Bhagyaraj, who ventured into cinema to become an actor, started off as an assistant director to the legendary filmmaker Bharathiraja in his directorial debut, 16 Vayathiniley (1977). P7

Shah flags 'high fare' of app-based cab giants

AHMEDABAD: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday launched the cooperative-based 'Bharat Taxi' service in Gujarat, projecting it as a people-centric alternative to private app-based taxi platforms and declaring that the initiative would end exploitation of drivers and passengers. ENS

POSTS OF THE DAY

DK Shivakumar @DKShivakumar

The greatest gift we can give our children is the gift of good health. As the Pulse Polio Campaign begins, I appeal to every parent to ensure that every child below the age of five receives life-saving polio drops

Siddaramaiah @Siddaramaiah

The throne of the CM is transient; the throne of the people's hearts is everlasting. No one can ever dethrone me from there. It is eternal bond between me and people

SHIVAKUMAR HAS BEEN PLOTTING TO LOOT LAND IN BIDADI, SAYS HDK

Says real estate sharks have had their eyes on this area from the very beginning

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has been plotting for years to loot the fertile agricultural land of Bidadi, Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy said while addressing thousands of farmers in Byramangala on Saturday.

The farmers of Byramangala and Kanchugaranahalli gram panchayats have been protesting against the State Government over the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT), for which over 7,000 acres of irrigation land will be acquired.

To take a dig at the CM, Kumaraswamy placed an empty chair next to him with the nameplate reading 'Chief Minister DK Shivakumar', hinting at his absenteeism after calling for a debate over the issue. "The Chief Minister's conspiracy to loot the land around Bidadi is not new today. They have been dreaming of looting this land for many years," the former CM said

The JDS leader also alleged that the State Government is trying to fool farmers by telling them that they are part of Bengaluru and their land will earn crores of rupees. "Real estate magnates have had their eyes on this area from the very beginning," he stated.

Kumaraswamy further added that 7,481 acres in nine villages will be used for the project and questioned the reduction of Gomala land. He also stated that the township project was projected as 'Kumaraswamy's dream child' by the present government. "The Congress government, including the current Chief Minister, are going to implement the township project that I had abandoned at that time," Kumaraswamy added.

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy lends his support to farmers protesting against the proposed Bidadi Township project in Byramangala on Saturday. He sat next to an empty chair, taking a dig at CM DK Shivakumar for not being present at the venue

The Union Minister said that the land he owns was purchased with his hard-earned money. "I could have bought 150 acres. If I had bought land then and made real estate, I would have become as rich as they are. But I did not do that. I am growing millet, coconut, and areca nuts on that land," he said.

Kumaraswamy assured to stand by the farmers and assured legal help. Meanwhile, there was a section of farmers who raised slogans in favour of the project, claiming that nearly 80% of them were in its favour. The police, however, managed to control the emotions.

Even as the government celebrated Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Jayanti, Kumaraswamy said that the Congress government had not repaired a single pothole in Bengaluru. He also flayed the BDA's mass sapling plantation drive on Kempegowda Jayanti and dubbed it as a publicity stunt.

Not appropriate to discuss on street: Priyank to HDK

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge opined that the culture of discussing policy-related issues on the streets is not right. "It is appropriate to discuss anyone's problem on an official forum. The tendency to discuss on the streets is not in line with the tradition of democracy," he said.

Meanwhile, Magadi MLA H C Balakrishna said it's not right for Kuamraswamy to call CM DK Shivakumar for a debate on the streets at Byramangala, as it will create law and order issues.

Court summons Priyank, Nalapad over RSS remark

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A Bengaluru court has issued summons to Home Minister Priyank Kharge and Karnataka Youth Congress leader Mohammed Haris Nalapad over allegations that they made defamatory and objectionable remarks against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its members on social media and other public platforms.

The 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court has taken cognisance of the criminal defamation complaint filed against the two Congress leaders and directed them to appear in person before the court on July 21.

The private complaint was filed by A Tejas, an Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh worker and resident of Siddapura in Bengaluru.

According to the complaint, Kharge had allegedly shared a post on his official social media 'X' account on August 14, 2025, targeting Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh members with derogatory remarks.

The complaint further alleged that Haris Nalapad made defamatory statements against the organisation during an interview with a YouTube channel, allegedly harming its public reputation.

The complainant argued that the statements were made with the intention of tarnishing the image and reputation of the organisation.

After examining the complaint, digital links, and other evidence submitted by the complainant, the magistrate observed that there was a prima facie case warranting further proceedings.

During the hearing, Priyank Kharge and Nalapad are required to appear in person and respond to the allegations against them.

If the allegations against them are proved, they can be sentenced to two years of imprisonment.

HM wants probe into 'misuse' of Ram temple funds

Home Minister Priyank Kharge urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Uttar Pradesh government to break their silence and clarify the allegations of misuse of donations collected for the construction of the Ayodhya Ram Temple. Speaking to reporters on Saturday in Bengaluru, Kharge said there must be transparency regarding the utilisation of funds collected from the public and called for a comprehensive investigation into the allegations. Kharge said it is the responsibility of the Centre to provide a credible response on the issue and take appropriate steps to uphold public trust.

BJP using SIR to target 97 seats in K'taka: Patil

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayapura

KARNATAKA Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development Minister **MB Patil** has alleged that the BJP has targeted 97 Assembly constituencies in the state, including Babaleshwar and Vijayapura City, through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Speaking after inaugurating a training camp for Congress Booth Level Agents organised by the Vijayapura District Congress Committee on Friday, Patil accused the BJP of attempting to remove Congress supporters from voters' lists. He claimed that similar exercises had been carried out in other states and that a conspiracy was underway to delete the names of Congress voters in Karnataka during the SIR process. Patil expressed concern that citizens whose names are removed from the electoral rolls could face difficulties in accessing government welfare benefits, including guarantee schemes, ration supplies and social pension programmes in the future.

Stating that the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee is taking the issue seriously, he urged party workers and BLAs to remain vigilant and ensure that eligible voters are not deprived of their voting rights.

MLC Sunilgouda Patil said the SIR process would have an impact not only on Assembly elections but also on village, taluk, district and town panchayat elections.

BJP panel submits report; Cong used 'unethical methods': Ravi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE fact-finding committee constituted by the BJP to probe the cross-voting allegations in the recent MLC polls submitted its report to Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra on Saturday.

The three-member committee, headed by senior MLC CT Ravi, also had party state vice-president Mahesh and Hubballi-Dharwad Central MLA Mahesh Tenginkai as members.

It remains to be seen whether Vijayendra will send the report to BJP national president Nitin Nabin, whom he met in New Delhi recently.

"We three discussed the matter and prepared the report, mentioning only the points agreed upon by all of us. We have made a list of those suspected of cross-voting, gathered inputs from the media and members of the public, and held discussions with them. We also held discussions with candidates and gathered their opinions. We also consulted JDS leaders, opposition leaders, chief whips, and media persons. We have collected local information, and circumstantial details were obtained," Ravi told media persons.

BJP MLC CT Ravi and party state vice-president N Mahesh submit the fact-finding committee's report on cross-voting in the recent MLC polls, on Saturday | EXPRESS

CROSS-VOTING

Citing the report, Ravi alleged that the Congress used unethical methods to conduct cross-voting in the recent MLC polls. "Congress leaders should not think that cross-voting is being done by our MLAs out of loyalty towards the Congress. When cross-voting occurs in other states, Congress preaches that it is against the values of democracy. But now they have devalued democracy through cross-voting. Therefore, they have no morality to question cross-voting anymore," Ravi lashed out.

The report contains what precautions should have been taken and what precautions were not taken in the elections, he said. "Since this is an internal investigation, we cannot divulge more details," he added.

He said that 12 NDA MLAs, including four from BJP cross-voted, of which one was invalid. It resulted in JDS candidate Inchara Govindaraju of JDS facing a humiliating defeat by securing only 14 votes.

According to sources, the panel suggested that the BJP leadership should keep a check on those MLAs whose moves are stealthy.

In the elections held on June 16, the Congress won five of the seven seats. Thanks to cross-voting, the Congress secured 151 votes, well beyond its expected 140.

AHINDA leaders feel let down as CM replaces them with Vokkaligas?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister DK Shivakumar seems to have picked his choice of people for critical posts, replacing those who were at the helm of affairs during former chief minister Siddaramaiah's tenure.

Diwakar has been posted as managing director of the Karnataka State Cooperative Apex Bank, removing CN Devaraj, and Dr ST Suresh has been appointed to the Karnataka Milk Federation, replacing Shivaswamy. Shivakumar's younger brother and former Bengaluru Rural MP DK Suresh is eying the KMF chairman's post, while his brother-in-law and MLC S Ravi the Apex Bank chief's position. The new appointments have not gone down well within Congress, especially among AHINDA leaders, as most of the officers removed hail from oppressed communities and those who replaced them are from the Vokkaliga community.

Cabinet expansion in a week or 10 days: Priyank

Home Minister Priyank Kharge said that CM DK Shivakumar cabinet expansion will take place in a week or ten days time. He said the CM has already clarified that the cabinet expansion process is in progress and will likely be completed within a week or 10 days. He said finishing the process of expansion quickly and having a complete cabinet will be beneficial for smooth governance and administration.

With the move, Shivakumar, also a Vokkaliga, is trying to impress upon the community that he is the only alternative to JDS patriarch and former PM prime minister HD Deve Gowda. But this could have a negative impact on the future of the party if the trend continued, sources said.

Meanwhile, senior IPS officer R Hithendra is likely to be appointed as Bengaluru city police commissioner, sources said.

Ashoka targets Cong over manual scavenging

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition **R Ashoka** on Saturday accused the Karnataka government of failing to safeguard the rights of Dalits, alleging that incidents of manual scavenging continue even in Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara's home district of Tumakuru.

In a post on social media platform X, Ashoka alleged that four workers were made to manually clean a septic tank on the KEB Engineers' Association premises in Tumakuru city. He also referred to a recent incident at the Koratagere bus stand, where a child labourer was allegedly engaged in similar work, and questioned the government's response.

Ashoka further alleged that Rs 53,059.45 crore of SCSP-TSP funds had been diverted for guarantee schemes over the past three years, that allocations to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe development corporations had been reduced, and that atrocities against SCs and STs had risen, citing 2,277 cases reported in 2025. He also referred to the recent incident of worms being found in food served at the Jai Bhim Hostel in Chikkaballapur.Claiming the Congress government had failed to protect the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Ashoka urged Home Minister Priyank Kharge to address the alleged injustices faced by Dalits.

₹53,059.45 crore of SCSP-TSP funds had been diverted for guarantee schemes over the past three years. Also, allocations to SC and ST Development Corporations hasw been reduced

R Ashoka, BJP MLA and LoP in Assembly

Make use of IT for better policing: HM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Saturday visited the Police Computer Wing (PCW), the Karnataka State Police's central technology and IT division that powers the state's digital policing infrastructure, along with senior police officers. The minister after visiting the PCW conducted a review of the department.

Speaking at the meeting, Kharge stressed the need to make police services more transparent, effective and people-friendly through the proper use of information technology.

The officers were directed to give high priority to improving technical capacity, adopting modern technologies and providing quick service to the public, which is increasing in the number of crimes. In addition, the officers have been directed to take necessary steps to ensure transparency and accountability in administration by making police departments more efficient in digital services and information systems.

The functioning of the key technological infrastructures that underpin the digital police system of the state, such as the State Police Data Centre, Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), Cyber Command Centre, Cyber Emergency Network (CEN) units, and various digital platforms including KSP App (KSP App) and Smart e-Beat providing services to the public, was discussed in detail.

Home Minister Priyank Kharge at the Police Computer Wing in Bengaluru on Saturday

Discussion on further development of Police IT v2, the flagship Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform of the Karnataka State Police Department, which integrates crime records management, traffic management and departmental administration were also held. Along with this, consultations were held with the officials on modernising the digital environment, further strengthening cyber security, increasing interoperability of various digital systems and creating a unified digital system for police operations.

As part of the 100-day action plan being prepared for the Home Department, quick and effective measures were identified and further steps to be taken regarding smart, technological and intelligent policing in Karnataka were discussed with the officials.

POLITICAL THEATRE

Kempegowda Jayanti celebrations in C'ballapur marred by protests

CHIKKABALLAPUR: The Kempegowda Jayanti celebrations organised by the district administration and Vokkaligara Sangha in Chikkaballapur were marred by a group of people who raised slogans against Congress leader and Chikkaballapura MLA **Pradeep Eshwar**. The protesters heckled Eshwar and asked him to leave the dais claiming that he had criticized JDS leader and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy. They sought an apology from Eswhar. Sri Mangalanathaswamiji of Adichunchanagiri Chikkaballapur branch mutt and District Commissioner G Prabhu and senior leaders of Vokkaliga Community intervened and pacified the protesters. Later, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president BK Hariprasad condemned the opposition party members for throwing footwear at the Congress MLA. **ENS**

"Kerala and Karnataka governments are coordinating efforts to expedite the proposed Bairakuppa bridge in Wayanad connecting both states. I have written to the K'taka Chief Minister and personally visited the site

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress MP

States, UTs told to publish kidney transplant outcomes

Hospitals instructed to display post-transplant outcome data on websites

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mangaluru

THE Union Health Ministry has directed all States and Union Territories to strengthen transparency and accountability in kidney transplantation by ensuring comprehensive reporting of transplant outcomes and greater public disclosure by hospitals.

The directive follows a representation made by Dakshina Kannada MP Capt. Brijesh Chowta to Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda.

In an official communication dated June 19, the director of the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), Dr Anil Kumar, referred to the MP's report prepared by Mangaluru residents Shyam Kamath and Dr Lionel de Souza, highlighting concerns over under-reported post-transplant mortality, complications, and the absence of robust long-term outcome tracking, particularly in cadaveric kidney transplants.

Responding, NOTTO stated that the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Registry already maintains records of kidney transplant donors and recipients, including follow-up and outcome data. According to the communication, 824 transplant centres across the country are linked to the registry and are required to upload transplant and follow-up information through designated login credentials.

Dr Kumar, however, instructed state authorities to ensure that all registered transplant hospitals submit complete and timely data to the national registry, stating that regular reporting would strengthen monitoring of transplant outcomes, improve traceability, and support evidence-based policy decisions.

States have also been asked to direct transplant hospitals to prominently display post-transplant outcome data on their website homepage in a prescribed format and to strictly adhere to informed consent requirements by ensuring that patients and their families are adequately informed about transplant procedures, associated risks, and expected outcomes.

In his letter, Chowta had called for a National Kidney Transplant Outcomes Registry, mandatory publication of long-term survival statistics by hospitals and stronger informed consent protocols. He argued that greater transparency in cadaveric organ transplantation would improve public confidence while enabling patients and families to make informed decisions.

CIVIC NEGLECT

HDPE pipes dumped on a footpath in HSR Layout Sector 2 have forced pedestrians onto the carriageway, raising concerns over public safety and the authorities' failure to monitor construction-related obstructions | KEVIN NASHON

EXPRESS READ

12-yr-old tigress captured in Gundlupet taluk

MYSURU: A 12-year-old tigress was captured on Friday evening in Chirakanahalli village in Gundlupet taluk in Chamarajanagar district. The tigress, which had worn-out canine teeth, had been preying on cattle in a village near the Kundhakere range of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve. After repeated complaints from villagers about tiger sightings and livestock attacks, forest officials set up a cage in a farmland owned by Potharaju. The tigress was successfully caught in the cage on Friday evening. Bandipur Tiger Reserve field director Nandish L S said, "As there were frequent complaints from local communities, we placed bait in a cage and captured the tigress. The big cat has been shifted to the Bannerghatta rehabilitation centre." Meanwhile, tiger-related incidents continue in fringe villages of Saraguru taluk in Mysuru district.

₹2.98 cr cash found in shed in Mahalakshmi Layout

BENGALURU: Mahalakshmi Layout police have seized Rs 2.98 crore in cash hidden in an industrial shed in Kurubarahalli. On June 2, a sub-inspector and his staff of Mahalakshmi Layout police station recei-ved information that a large amount of cash was illegally stored at an industrial shed in Kurubarahalli. The police raided the shed and found bundles of currency notes in four bags. After counting the cash at the police station all day, it was confirmed to total Rs 2.98 crore. The cash belongs to one Nagaraj from Tavarekere. He had allegedly kept the money, at the shed belonging to his friend, Venkatesh. Police have informed Income Tax Department. Police are checking if the cash was part of any hawala transaction. Nagaraj told the police that he had kept the cash at his friend's shed after selling a property in Chitradurga.

Divide Cauvery water by listening to farmers: V-P

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

VICE President CP Radhakrishnan on Saturday said the interests of farmers in both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu should remain paramount in decisions concerning the sharing of the Cauvery river water. "The languages the farmers speak do not make any difference," he said on Saturday in Bengaluru, while attending the commemorative ceremony of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda on his birth anniversary.

"Whether a farmer speaks Tamil or Kannada, the paddy they produce is for the consumption of everyone. The recent opening of the Tungabhadra dam by multiple ministers is a step in the right direction," he said. "I will see to it that the Kadugolla are recognised as a scheduled tribe. I will take it up with the concerned authorities," he said. He continued to assert that Kempegowda never segregated the city in terms of caste. "He planned the city so that industries could get concentrated in feasible locations," he stressed.

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Minister UT Khader in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

According to Radhakrishnan, Bengaluru's present position as a livable city owes itself to Kempegowda's prescience. "Kempegowda had a great vision, of which we are now seeing the benefits. It is unbelievable that he had a vision for this city five centuries ago. He envisioned a city where people of different faiths would live and work together," he said. "His model of building lakes and planting trees has become a model of sustainable urbanity," he remarked.

Five killed, four injured in head-on collision in Koppal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Koppal

FIVE people were killed and four others injured in a horrific road accident that occurred on Saturday on National Highway 63 near Bhanapur in Kukanoor taluk of Koppal district.

The deceased are Kenchamma Balekai (35), Amrutha Kotyal (25), Ramesh Ballari (45), Chinmaya (16), and Praveen Shivaji Balekai, of Kabbar village in Rattihalli taluk of Haveri district. They were travelling to Mantralaya. Among the injured, Samarth Yadav is in critical condition and has been shifted to Ballari for advanced treatment.

According to the police, a goods-laden vehicle rammed into the van while crossing the road divider, leading to the crash. The impact was so severe that the bodies of the deceased were thrown onto the road. Yelburga CPI Mouneshwar Patil visited the accident site.

Woman's decomposed body found at paramour's house

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE decomposed body of a 30-year-old married woman from Ilkal was found at her paramour's house in Jigani on the outskirts of the city.

The police who had registered a case of unnatural death changed it to a case of murder based on the post-mortem report. The victim's paramour who is missing ever since the decomposed body was found at his house in Jigani is being suspected to be behind the murder.

The deceased has been identified as Akshatha. The victim's paramour is identified as Nana Saab. The body was found at the rented house in Patalamma Layout on June 20. The victim had married one Krishna in 2014 and was the mother of two children.

Krishna is working as a carpenter in Bagalkot. Akshatha was working in a saree manufacturing factory in Ilkal. Nana Saab was working as a weaver in the same factory. They were in an illicit relationship and came to Jigani last November.

They had introduced themselves as husband and wife while taking the house for rent. Over the last few days, they had started fighting. "The suspect is missing. The doors had been locked from outside. The victim's husband has been informed about the incident," said an officer.

KITTUR RANI CHANNAMMA RESIDENTIAL SAINIK SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, KITTUR - 5911158
Dist: Belagavi, State: Karnataka State [India]
Phone: 08288-234601 / 234605, 9483501100
E-Mail: kittursainikschool@gmail.com
website: www.kittursainikschool.org

VACANCIES

PGT (Mathematics, Physics, Biology & Chemistry: Post graduation in subject concerned from recognised University with B.Ed From NCTE recognised Institutions, teaching minimum 3–5 years' experience from Classes XI & XII in a CBSE School.
Salary: Minimum pay scales as per School rules (Approx Rs.75,000/- to 90,000/- PM, however, higher salary negotiable for deserving candidates.
Perks: Free Food and single / family accommodation available.
Please apply with recent pass port size colour photograph and copies of relevant testimonials to **The Principal Kittur Rani Channamma Residential Sainik School for Girls, Kittur-591115 Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka Last date for receipt of applications 13.07.2026** by post or mail resume to kittursainikschool@gmail.com

Date: 28.06.2025

Sd/-
Principal,
KRCRSSG, Kittur

भारतीय विमानपत्तन आर्थिक विनियामक प्राधिकरण
Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA)
भारत सरकार /Government of India
3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi - 110003
Ph.: 011-24695044

PUBLIC NOTICE

STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION MEETING ON DETERMINATION OF TARIFF FOR THE AERONAUTICAL SERVICES FOR KEMPEGOWDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, BENGALURU (BLR) FOR THE FOURTH CONTROL PERIOD (01.04.2026-31.03.2031)

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) has issued Consultation Paper No. 01/2026-27 on 12.06.2026 (which is available on AERA website at URL www.aera.gov.in) w.r.t The Tariff Determination for Aeronautical Services for Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR) for the Fourth Control Period (01.04.2026-31.03.2031).

In accordance with the provision of Section 13(4) of the AERA Act, 2008, the various tariff proposals of the Authority contained in the Consultation Paper, are put forth for Stakeholders' Consultation. A Stakeholders Consultation Meeting in hybrid mode (Physical/Online) in this regard is scheduled on **29th June, 2026 (Monday) at 3:30 PM** at:

Stakeholders Room, 3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi - 110003

All stakeholders like Passengers/Passengers' Associations, General Public, Airport Operators, Airlines, Industry Associations/Bodies, Independent Service providers for Cargo, Ground Handing Fuel Farm etc., are requested to join the said meeting and give their valuable suggestions/comments/views on the aforesaid Consultation Paper on tariff proposal of Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR).

Participants joining in person may send their confirmation to AERA with Name, email address, mobile number, vehicle number by email (to director-ps@aera.gov.in and rajan.gupta1@aera.gov.in). Online link will be shared on AERA website (https://aera.gov.in) before the Stakeholders meeting under Tab "News and Announcements".

Sd/-
Secretary, AERA

CBC_03112/12/0007/2627

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), Transmission Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500004, TG.
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

'e'-Tender No. & Date	Name of Work	Ranging (approx.)	Bid document download start date
EP No.47/ CGM(E)/TC/ T3/TD-III/ 2026-27, Dt:27.06.2026.	i) Extension of Control Room building at 132/6.6KV Sub-station for replacing overlapping cables by constructing new cable trenches to avoid major break downs in KDWSP Phase-I,II and III at Godakondla ii). Extension of Control Room building at 132/6.6KV Sub-station for replacing overlapping cables by constructing new cable trenches to avoid major break downs in KDWSP Phase-I,II and III at Kodandapur iii) Extension of Control Room building at 132/6.6KV Sub-station for replacing overlapping cables by constructing new cable trenches to avoid major break downs in KDWSP Phase I,II and III at Nasarlapally under SD-I, Trans. Div. III, Sahebnagar.	Rs.615.74 lakhs	29.06.2026 @ 04.00 PM

The Tenderers are requested to upload the information on the Zip format preferably. Further details can be seen on **www.eprocurement.gov.in.**
Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), Transmission Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-04, TG.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mr. Subramanya Gopadi Narasimhamurthy** S/o. Mr. Narasimha Murthy and **Mrs. Shylaja s** w/o. Mr. Subramanya Gopadi Narasimha Murthy are intending to purchase the schedule property from **Mr.Harsha S** S/o Mr.Srinivas M; person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Site No.49**, RDPR No. 150200401600320806 measuring East to West **12.19 meters,** North to South **9.14 Meters** in total measuring **111.41 Sq. Mtrs,** situated at **Kodigehalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk** and bounded on the:

East by : Site No. 42; West by : Road; North by : Site No. 48; South by : Site No. 50;

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), कल्याणी
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), KALYANI
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के तत्वावधान में एक सांविधिक निकाय)
(A Statutory Body under the Aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI)
राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-34, बसन्तपुर, सागूना, कल्याणी, ज़िला-नदिया, पश्चिम बंगाल-741245
NH-34 Connector, Basantapur, Saguna, Kalyani, District Nadia, West Bengal -741245

VACANCY NOTICE FOR TUTOR/CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR IN COLLEGE OF NURSING OF AIIMS KALYANI

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Kalyani, an Institute of National Importance, invites applications for following post:

Sl. No.	NAME OF THE POST	NO OF VACANCY	MODE OF RECRUITMENT	ADVT. NUMBER & DATE
1	Tutor/Clinical Instructor	1(OBC)	Direct recruitment	ADMIN/RECT/F_NU/1/2026-ADMIN/252 dtd: 24.06.2026

Detailed notification, including vacancy particulars, eligibility criteria, cut-off dates, application process, general terms & conditions, method of recruitment and last date of application is available on the institute's website: **https://www.aiimskalyani.edu.in.**

By order of the Executive Director
Sd/-
Administrative Officer
AIIMS, Kalyani

"Congress is swallowing the lakes and cut down trees and build townships. CM DK Shivakumar is staging a drama of planting 15 lakh saplings under the name 'Our Green Bengaluru Sankalpa'

R Ashoka, LoP of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly

ISRO TESTS SEMI-CRYOGENIC ENGINE

The eighth test in the series used the Power Head Test Article and cleaner, non-toxic propellants, say scientists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

ISRO on Saturday announced the successful conduct of the hot test of Semi-Cryogenic Engine Power Head Test Article (PHTA) at the thrust level of 175 tonnes.

The test was conducted at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu, on June 24.

ISRO scientists said PHTA encompasses all engine systems except the thrust chamber. This is the eighth test in a series of hot tests using PHTA. The objective of the test included the study of build up after preburner ignition and demonstration of steady state operation at higher thrust levels. Previous PHTA tests were conducted at 47% (94 Tonne) and 60% (120 Tonne) thrust levels. This time, the test was at 175 tonne thrust level (88%). It was for the first time and also demonstrated successful operation of main turbo pumps delivering 400 and 500 bar outlet pressures.

The scientists said that the test proceeded as predicted and all engine parameters were as expected. This test helps to demonstrate the performance of the engine power head at 200 tonne (100%) thrust level and also achieve a major milestone in indigenous development of semi-cryogenic engines.

The Semi-Cryogenic Propulsion Stage (SC120), powered by the 2000 kN-class SE2000 engine, is being developed to replace the current L110 core stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle. This strategic upgrade is expected to substantially increase the payload capacity while enhancing operational efficiency. The semi-cryogenic system uses cleaner, non-toxic propellants-Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and purified Kerosene (isrosene) -- offering improved performance over conventional propulsion stages. The integration of the semi-cryogenic propulsion system along with an uprated cryogenic upper stage signifies a major advancement in ISRO's roadmap towards enhancing LVM3 payload capability, the scientists said.

The test was conducted at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu on June 24 | PIC: ISRO

Gaganyaan mission on track, 8k tests done: ISRO chairman

BENGALURU: ISRO chairman V Narayanan, who is also the secretary at the Union Department of Space (DoS), said that ISRO's Gaganyaan mission is on track for its first launch in the third quarter of 2027, with over 8,000 ground tests having been conducted already. Narayanan was speaking as the keynote lecturer at the 17th annual Air Chief Marshal LM Katre Memorial Lecture, organised by the Air Force Association (Karnataka) at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Management Academy. In his speech on "Indian Space Programme: The Challenges and Way Forward", he stressed ISRO's enduring partnership with HAL, without which, according to him, the former organisation would not have any launch vehicles, and would not be able to conduct any satellite programmes. "Since its inception, 4,020 sounding rockets have been launched, 105 launch vehicle missions have been conducted, and 135 satellite missions have been accomplished. The number of missions conducted doubled in the 2015-2026 time period as compared to the 2006-2015 time period," said Narayanan, adding that 463 satellites (399 foreign) have been launched by ISRO in the last decade. He also said that in the 2025-2026 financial year, ISRO had undertaken over 60 major tests or demonstrations. "We are currently working on the first non-crew mission," he added. Air Marshal HB Rajaram (retired), in his speech, highlighted the contributions of Katre towards the growth of Indian aviation during his 42-year-long career spanning the Indian Air Force and HAL. **ENS**

No Indian mission is fully indigenous, says scientist

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ISRO sources pointed out that even the FAC report of C-61 failure was not made public, while ISRO said it is with the Prime Minister's Office. "But that should not be the case when India is closely working with international agencies. The C-61 mission was not successful because of nozzle throat failure. The material was not right. Graphite was imported for the nozzle throat. This was changed to a carbon-composite component during the C-62 mission, which also did not succeed. The question that arose was whether it was fully characterised and qualified for industrial use or not," the space scientist said.

He added that no Indian mission is fully indigenous. "Even if we say missions are 100% 'Made in India', some components are imported. The present global turmoil is not just delaying execution of missions, but also leading to secrecy in making reports public."

Another senior ISRO scientist, also refusing to be identified, said the two missions failing consecutively – and in similar conditions – raised some questions like whether the diagnosis done during the C-61 mission was right, whether the solutions listed were sufficient, whether all of them were implemented, and whether something had remained unresolved and not addressed during the C-62 mission. "Only successful mission technologies can be transferred, not otherwise," the ISRO scientist said.

On May 18, 2025, the launch of India's 101st mission – and PSLV's 63rd flight – scheduled at 5.59am from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR) in Sriharikota, the PSLV-C61 carrying the sophisticated EOS-09 earth observation satellite, did not reach its designated orbit. The EOS-09 satellite was to separate from the PSLV-C61's fourth stage a little over 17 minutes after the launch and place in a Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO) at an altitude of about 534 km. Soon after the launch, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan announced that there was a fall in pressure in the chamber of the motor case during the third stage propulsion system of the PSLV-C61 during launch, resulting in the failure.

On January 12, 2026, ISRO's PSLV-C62 carrying 16 satellites, including a foreign Earth Observation Satellite, also recorded a failure. Narayanan was then quoted stating there were disturbances in the rocket which deviated from its designated flight path during the third stage of the launch when the strap-on motors were providing thrust during the flight's 3rd stage.

EXPRESS READ

Pulse polio drive today, 36,076 booths in K'taka

BENGALURU: Karnataka is set to conduct the National Immunisation Day (Pulse Polio) campaign on Sunday, with the aim of vaccinating 64.84 lakh children below the age of five years across the state. The drive is part of the Centre's efforts to sustain India's polio-free status despite the continued circulation of the wild poliovirus in neighbouring countries. A total of 36,076 vaccination booths have been established across Karnataka, where children, including newborns, will be administered two drops of the oral polio vaccine. Health workers will also undertake house-to-house visits over the next two to three days for those who missed the campaign. The state deployed 1,14,213 vaccinators, 7,197 supervisors, 988 mobile teams and 2,125 transit teams. Special focus will be placed on immunising children in migrant ares, urban slums, brick kilns, construction sites, farmhouses and remote villages. **ENS**

Pratitee lone Indian medallist among 13 Indians

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

A student of Shishya BEML Public School, Pratitee qualified to represent India after winning the National Under-17 Girls Chess Championship in Ahmedabad earlier this year.

The championship featured 758 players from 83 countries competing between June 15 and 26, across the Under-14, Under-16 and Under-18, Open and Girls categories. India fielded 13 players across the six sections, but only Pratitee bagged a medal for the country. Pratitee produced an unbeaten campaign, scoring 9 points from 11 rounds (7 wins, 4 draws, 0 loss). She began with four consecutive victories to move into the joint lead.

Adigas Yatra completes 32 years in biz

ENS @ Bengaluru

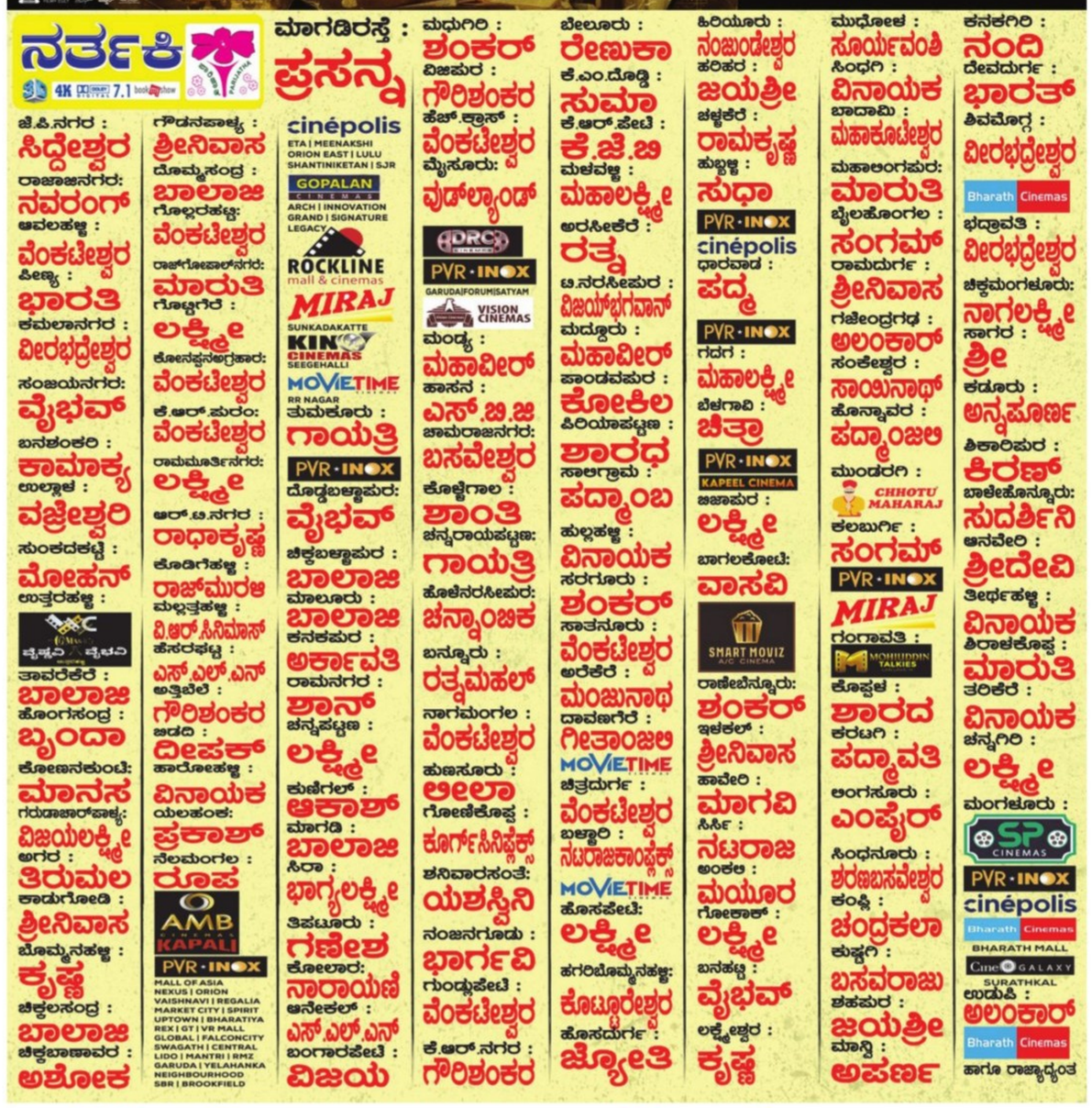
ADIGAS Yatra organisation has completed 32 years of its journey. The organisation's story began in Katkere, Kundapura Taluk, Udupi district, Karnataka.

Before this, the Adiga family lived in Kakunje. Born in 1971 to middle-class parents Mahabala Adiga and Vagadevi Adiga, Adiga developed a passion for travel during his childhood by reading a wide range of books and magazines. Adiga entered the travel business in 1994. Adigas Yatra established offices in Basavanagudi, Vijayanagar, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Malleshwaram in Bengaluru, and Hassan, successfully introducing tours and gaining popularity.

The organisation has planned more than 500 tours tailored to the interests and needs of tourists and pilgrims, including domestic, international, customised, and honeymoon tours. Among international destinations, Europe, the UK, Australia, Dubai, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Bali, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong–Macau, the Scandinavian countries, Japan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan have proved especially popular.

In recognition of its contribution, the organisation has received numerous awards. These include recognition as an "Experienced Service Provider" from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, honours from the Karnataka State Tourism Department, awards as the best travel organisation for four consecutive years, and the "Best Travel Organisation" award from an English daily.

PADMAVATHI FILMS
ಬಲರಾಮನ ದಿನಗಳು
THE DAYS OF BALARAMA
STORY - SCREENPLAY - DIRECTION K M CHAITANYA
PRODUCED BY PADMAVATHI JAYARAM I SHREYAS
ENTIRE KARNATAKA RELEASE BY KVN KVN PRODUCTION



PUBLIC NOTICE
LOST OF DOCUMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the original Sale Deed of Site 64, Ittagalpura Village, Rajakunte Village Panchyat Limits, Gramatana Khaneshumari Katha No 529/64 dated 25-03-2009, registered as Document No. HSR-1-02915-2008-09, Book-1, stored in CD HSE028, at the Office of the Sub-Registrar Hesargatta, executed between **Kallam Sarojini (Seller) and Mr Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva (Buyer)** has been lost. A police complaint has been filed vide **FIR No. 2273419/2026 dated 25 Jun 2026.** Any person finding the same or having any claim/objection regarding the said property should notify the undersigned **within 28 days** of this notice. Thereafter, the undersigned will proceed to obtain certified copies of the deed and/or deal with the property as deemed fit.

Contact Details
Mr. RAJESH KUMAR SACHDEVA
Mobile: 7022595921

Date: 28-06-2026. Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOST OF DOCUMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Original Agreement Sale Deed of Plot No. 51, Rajanukunte Panchyat Limits Situated at Ittagalpura Village Hesarghatta Hobli Bangalore North Taluk has been lost. The original Agreement of Sale dated 06-08-2008, vide No. 376350, was executed between **Sri R Kutumba Rao (Seller) and Smt Sumitra Devi (Buyer).** A police complaint has been filed vide **FIR No. 2273471/2026 dated 25 Jun 2026**. Any person finding the same or having any claim/objection regarding the said property should notify the undersigned **within 28 days** of this notice. Thereafter, the undersigned will proceed to obtain certified copies of the deed and/or deal with the property as deemed fit.

Contact Details
Mr. RAJESH KUMAR SACHDEVA
Mobile: 7022595921

Date: 28-06-2026. Bangalore

SMARTADS

FOR SALE
65000 Sq.ft commercial DC Converted Land for Sale at Ramanagara Rate 4000 per sq.ft Genuine parties
Contact
6362964507
9945231730

FOR RENT

SPACIOUS 4½ floor building with 50 HP Power, 17000 Sqft Building Near Nagasandra Metro Station (approx. 1.5 KM), Close to Christ University, Doddabidarakallu, Bangalore.
CALL:
9845772606

ASTROLOGY
Medical Astrology
Are you interested in Medical Astrology Predictions, Remedies and Prashna Shastra.
WhatsApp :
9980178192

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING
INDULGE
Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Director (AH),
KR Puram, Old Madras Road, Bengaluru-560036
No.: GBA/BECC/AD(AH)/PR/46/2026-27 Date: 27.06.2026
CORRIGENDUM
With respect to the Publication published on dated: 26.06.2026, No. GBA/BECC/AD(AH)/PR/45/2026-27, Date: 25.06.2026 for submitting price proposal for the supply of Dynamic Mobile Animal Incinerator interested parties may obtain details by sending a request to **adahkrp01@gmail.com** or directly from the Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), Bengaluru East City Corporation, K.R. Puram, Old Madras Road, Bengaluru-36.
Sd/- Assistant Director (AH), BECC, GBA

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that our client(s) intend(s) to purchase the below-mentioned Schedule Property from - **(1) Smt. Venkatamma, (2) Sri. Ravi, (3) Sri. Krishnamurthy,** and **(4) Sri. Anand,** being the wife and sons of **Late Sri. Gangappa** respectively, who claim to be the absolute owners of the same, having derived title thereto from **Smt. Bhagyalaxmi Late D/o. Sri. Gangappa under a Release Deed dated 05-07-2017** which was registered as **Document No.TVR-1-01301-2017-18 of Book-I and stored in CD No.TVRD237** in the **Office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar (Tavarekere), Bangalore.**

Any person(s) / institution(s) objecting to the proposed sale or asserting any manner of lawful / tenable right, title, interest or share over the said property or part thereof, is / are required to lodge their objections/claims preferably with photo-copies of documents based on which they object to the said sale or stake their claim, only by registered post with acknowledgement due, so as to reach at the below-mentioned address within **15 (fifteen)** days from the date of this publication, failing which our client(s) shall proceed to purchase the said properties as if there are no claims of any nature thereon, and all claims even if existing, shall be deemed to have been waived off / abandoned. Any objections/claims received after the said period, or personal representation(s) or communication by any other mode shall not be entertained / considered under any circumstances, and shall not be binding on our client(s).

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the lands to the extent of **2 Acres & 15 Guntas** in **Sy. No.8 of Kolur Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk** which is bounded on the:

EAST by : Property belonging to Sri. Ramaiah;
WEST by : Government Road;
NORTH by : Property belonging to Smt. Gangamma;
SOUTH by : Property belonging to Sri. Marappa.

ABHAY KUMAR P. JAIN & V. RAMKUMAR, Advocates
LexJuris, No.202, PANCHARATHNA RACE-VIEW APARTMENTS No.15/1, 6th Cross, Gandhinagar, BANGALORE- 560 009.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Balasore.
32001/461/2627 Email id: sedcbls@yahoo.com

"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.- ACEDCBLS-05/2026-27

1	Name of work: -	Drainage works (Under D.I.P. Scheme)
2	Total No. of Project:-	01 No of Individual work.
3	Estimated cost of individual works: -	**Rs. 2,97,04,185.00 (Excluding G.S.T.)**
4	Period of completion: -	11 (Eleven) Calendar Months
5	Bid Identification Number:-	**ACEDCBLS/DDJPR–01-05/2026-27**
6	Date & Time of availability of Bid document in the Portal: -	**From Dt.30.06.2026 at 10.00** hours to Dt.14.07.2026 at 17.00 hours
7	Date & Time for receipt of Bid document in the Portal: -	From **Dt.30.06.2026 at 10.00** hours to Dt.14.07.2026 at 17.00 hours
8	Date of Opening of Technical Bid:-	**Dt.15.07.2026 at 11.30** hours in the Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Balasore.
9	Date of Opening of Financial Bid: -	To be uploaded in portal.
10	Cost of Tender Paper:-	**Rs.10,000.00**
11	Procurement Officer/ Name & address of the officer inviting Bids: -	Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Balasore

Further details can be seen from the Govt.
Web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd/- Additional Chief Engineer
Drainage Circle, Balasore
OIPR-32001/32128/1/26-27/0005

MDMK quits DMK alliance after 9 yrs, to back TVK in bypolls

S KUMARESAN @Chennai

VAIKO'S MDMK on Saturday decided to walk out of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance after being a part of it for nearly nine years. The party had contested the 2026 Assembly election under the SPA alliance.

The key resolution taken at the party's 32nd general council meeting on Saturday, said MDMK had sided with DMK since 2017 to prevent communal forces from gaining strength in Tamil Nadu and to protect the core ideals of the Dravidian movement. However, it said that political developments after the Assembly election, including reports that DMK was willing to help AIADMK form the government despite AIADMK having won only 47 seats, had weakened the alliance's claim of being rooted in ideology. The resolution said party functionaries and cadres had strongly felt that MDMK should no longer continue in the DMK-led alliance. It therefore decided to withdraw from the alliance. It also stated that the party would take an appropriate decision on electoral alliances when elections are announced.

Addressing reporters after the meeting, **Vaiko** said almost every speaker in the general council had insisted that the party should immediately leave the DMK-led alliance. He said the resolution was passed unanimously. Speaking about the reported move by DMK to back an AIADMK-led government to prevent TVK from forming the government, Vaiko said that if those reports were true, it would have amounted to a "major political fraud". He said such a move was difficult to understand, considering the long history of political rivalry between the DMK and the AIADMK.

Going beyond the general council resolution, Vaiko said MDMK would support TVK in the Assembly by-elections and would also work towards a friendly relationship with the party in the local body elections. However, the general council resolution had only stated that the party would decide on future electoral alliances when elections are announced.

Explaining the reason for supporting the TVK government, Vaiko said the government had reduced corruption and commissions, was committed to protecting reservation and social justice, and continued to follow the two-language policy while opposing the three-language policy.

K Bhagyaraj | January 7, 1953 - June 27, 2026

Master storyteller passes away at 73

AVINASH RAMACHANDRAN @Chennai

(Top) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay consoles Poornima Bhagyaraj, wife of film director and actor K Bhagyaraj, at his residence in Chennai on Saturday. (Right) People gather outside the actor's residence to pay their respects | PTI

VETERAN actor-filmmaker **K Bhagyaraj**, known for being one of Indian cinema's master scenarists, passed away in Chennai on Saturday due to cardiac arrest. He complained of chest pain after returning home from a morning walk and was rushed to a private hospital. Efforts to resuscitate him proved futile. He was 73.

Bhagyaraj, who ventured into cinema to become an actor, started off as an assistant director to the legendary filmmaker Bharathiraja in his directorial debut, '16 Vayathiniley' (1977). Bhagyaraj was easily the most illustrious filmmaker to come out of the Bharathiraja school of films.

After casting Bhagyaraj in small roles in '16 Vayathiniley' and 'Kizhakke Pogum Rayil' (1978), Bharathiraja launched him as a leading hero in 'Puthiya Vaarpugal' (1979). In an old interview, when asked why he didn't try to become an actor straight away without taking the directorial route, he said, "I have the habit of seeing myself in the mirror... and I realised I was just building castles in the air..."

Without knowing much Hindi, he directed Amitabh Bachchan in 'Aakhree Raasta', a remake of Bharathiraja-Kamal Haasan's 'Oru Kaidhiyin Diary' (1984). He also directed Anil Kapoor in 'Mr Bechara', a remake of his very own 'Veetla Visheshanga' (1994).

True to the title, Bhagyaraj took a new form, became one of the most successful actor-directors in Tamil cinema history, and created a trail that many have followed since. The first time he didn't direct himself in a Tamil film was his landmark 25th film, 'Chokka Thangam' (2003), headlined by Vijayakanth.

Over the past two decades, however, Bhagyaraj has been better known for his acting credentials among newer audiences. He played much-loved characters in films like 'Unakkum Enakkum' (2006), 'Ninaithaale Inikkum' (2009), 'Uthama Puthiran' (2010), 'Thupparivalan' (2017), 'Dada' (2023), and 'Kuberaa' (2025). Bhagyaraj married his 'Darling, Darling, Darling' co-star, Poornima Bhagyaraj, who continues to act in cinema, OTT, and television serials. As a doting father, he also directed films for his son, Shanthnu ('Siddhu +2'), and daughter, Saranya ('Parijatham'). While the latter dropped out of a cinema career, Shanthnu is steadily working towards cementing a strong filmography.

Bhagyaraj was also considered very close to former Tamil Nadu CM MG Ramachandran, and in fact, the latter had called him his 'Kalai Vaarisu' (My art's heir). This closeness also saw Bhagyaraj try his hand in politics by starting the MGR Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam in 1989. While the party didn't see much traction, Bhagyaraj went on to join AIADMK and then even the DMK before retiring from active politics.

But politics isn't what defined Bhagyaraj; it was writing. Bhagyaraj traversed in the grey zones of morality and dealt with the complexities of humanity with unbelievable lightness, and that's probably why his films stand the test of time and also face constant scrutiny. His films, with irreverent themes, sensitive examination of society, and everything in between, would continue to be dissected, dissed, defended, and discussed every time they are on a rerun or a newer generation discovers his filmography. And this legacy, in a way, is the best screenplay Bhagyaraj has written, because all it takes for a full stop in the story of life to be turned into a comma is to just watch one of his movies.

Cricket coach gets 47-yr RI in 3rd POCSO case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

A cricket coach has been sentenced to 47 years of rigorous imprisonment in the third case involving the sexual assault of a minor girl. The Special POCSO Court in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday imposed a fine of Rs 79000 on the convict. The sentence in the third case will begin only after he completes the prison terms awarded in the first two cases.

The convicted coach, M Manu (40), a native of Sreevaraham in Vallakkadavu, was found guilty in three cases so far. He was sentenced to 16 years and 35 years in the first two cases. Concurrently he will serve 5 years and 10 years in both of those cases. In the third case, he will have to serve 20 years. In short, the accused will have to serve 35 years consecutively. Trials are completed in four of the six cases against the accused. While judgments are delivered in the first three cases, the verdict in the fourth case is scheduled to be pronounced on Monday. It was found that he is guilty.

The abuse came to light years later during a girls cricket tournament held in Thiruvananthapuram on March 28, 2024. On seeing the accused at the venue, the survivor reportedly suffered severe emotional distress and began shouting in fear. When those accompanying her enquired about the reason, she disclosed the sexual abuse, leading to the registration of the case.

Tunnel Road work to be completed in 18 months

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ACCORDING to the reports, the project is being implemented at a total estimated cost of Rs 1,139 crore, and a deadline of 18 months has been fixed for completion. The minister stated that, unlike many public projects that require private land, for this short tunnel, 'no private land acquisition' will be required.

"Petrol and diesel prices are increasing day by day. All transport corporations are losing about Rs 5,000 crore," said Suresh and added, in this context, consideration were given to increasing bus fares. The minister said that there have been discussions to increase the fare in a way that does not burden the common people.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client is intending to purchase the Property bearing present Khatha No.11, PID No.35-160-11, E-PID No.7101573231, Property No.11, situated at 7th Cross, Nanjarasappa Layout, Nagarabhavi, Old Ward No.35, New Ward No.126, Bangalore, previously Old Nos. 1719 and 1720, Khaneshumari Nos.1849/6 and 1850/5 in the records of Mallathahalli Village Panchayat, described in the Schedule hereunder from **Sri. B.S.CHANNAPPA @ B.S.CHENNAPPA,** aged about 53 years, son of B.C.Shivanna, residing at No. 264, 6th Cross, 8th Main, R.P.C.Layout, Bangalore – 560 040.

The Public is hereby informed that if anybody have any objections for the above said Sale, they may file their objections along with the related documents to the under signed within **Ten days** from the date of this publication. If no objections have been received within the above time, my Client will proceed to Purchase the Schedule Property as nobody have any objections.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing present Khatha **No.11,** PID No.35-160-11, **E-PID No.7101573231,** Property No.11, situated at **7th Cross, Nanjarasappa Layout, Nagarabhavi,** Old Ward No.35, New Ward No.126, Bangalore, previously Old Nos. 1719 and 1720, Khaneshumari Nos.1849/6 and 1850/5 in the records of Mallathahalli Village Panchayat, measuring,

East to West : 70 feet
North to South : 60 feet
In total 4200 square feet
Bounded on the :
East by : Site bearing Old No.1848/4.
West by : Private Property bearing House No.95 of Canara Bank Society
North by : Site bearing Old No.1846/2 and Private Property.
South by : 30 feet wide Road.

MAKAM NAGARAJA GUPTA
MAKAM LAW ASSOCIATES
Advocates
No. 429-430, Second Floor
Alankar Pearl Plaza, K.G. Road
Bangalore-560 009

AFFIDAVIT

I, **ARUNA.R W/o. MANJUNATHA.S.N,** D/O REDDEPPA, aged about 42 years, residing at No.104, Janatha Colony, Sonnappanahalli Village, Bettahalasur Post, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, . hereby declare that, my name is **ARUNA.R** and it is mentioned in my Aadhar card and Pan card, but in my passport my name falsely mentioned as **ARUNA MANJUNATH,** but my correct name is **ARUNA.R.** vide affidavit dated 27/06/2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary H. Prakasha, Bangalore Rural District.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my clients, Mr. Sethu M. Nambiar, S/o Sri K.T.Madhavan Nambiar, aged about 56 years, and Mrs. Supriya Sethu Nambiar, w/o Mr. Sethu M. Nambiar, aged about 51 years, both residing at Villa 26, "Bellezea", Chandapura Road, Narayanaghatta Muthanallur, Anekal, Bangalore, lost the original General Power of Attorney dated 13.04.2011 executed by Mr. Sethu M. Nambiar, and Mrs. Supriya Sethu Nambiar in favour of Sri Susanth Puthan Veedu while obtaining a photocopy of the same on 07.03.2026. My clients have lodged a complaint bearing Lost Report No.2269096/2026, on 23.06.2026 before the Karnataka State Police complaining about the loss of the said GPA dated 13.04.2011. The finder of the said document may kindly contact the undersigned at the address given hereunder.
Place: Bangalore
Date: 27.06.2026
-Sd/-
Anitha Nittor, Advocate
741/742, 2nd Main, E-block
Rajajinagar, 2nd stage,
Bangalore -560010
Mobile: 9448091496

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase the schedule property from Sri. SHANKAR KRISHNAN, S/o. late. Sri. P.Narayana Krishnan, Aged about 55 years, Residing at: **No. 2603, 8th Main, 17th Cross, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560070. PASSPORT No: 510361463, PAN : BOOPK7295C and Smt. SHANTHI KRISHNAN,** D/o. late. Sri. P.Narayana Krishnan, Aged about 60 years, Residing at: **No. 2603, 8th Main, 17th Cross, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560070. PASSPORT No: 564998429. PAN : ODIPK8194N. Represented by her General Power of Attorney Sri. SHANKAR KRISHNAN,** S/o. late. Sri. P.Narayana Krishnan, Aged about 55 years. Any person/banking institutions/ company, etc., has got any sort of legal right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said sale transaction, shall approach the under mentioned Advocate within 7 days from this day, with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement to sell considering there is no objection to the said sale transaction.

SCHEDULE :

All that piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing vacant Site No. 459,,comprised within the layout Formed and developed by the Bangalore Development Authority in 1st Block of Banashankari 6th Stage, Bengaluru, and presently comes under the Jurisdiction of Bangalore Development Authority having BDA property having EPID No. 3320010688, and measuring East to West 12.00 Meters and North to South 09.00 Meters, in all measuring 108 Square Meters:
AND BOUNDED ON :
East by : Road, West by : Site No. 468, North by : Site No. 460, South by : Site No. 458.

N.S. SHIVASHANKAR
Advocate
No.207,Ground Floor,26th Cross, Behind BWSSB Office,Uttarahalli- Kengeri Main Road, Poorna Prajna Nagar, B'lore-560061.
Ph: 9343094442, 9845931901.
Place: Bangalore Date: 28.06.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that my client, **MR. RAVIKALYAN GUNTAKA @ Ravi Kalyan Guntaka,** Son of Late Mr. Rama Rao Guntaka, is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property described infra.

The original Sale deed dated 18-11-1988, executed by the Aircraft Employees Co-Operative Society Limited (AECS) in favour of Sri. F Johnson Pereira, in respect of Site No.1393, registered as document No. 10175/1988-89, in Book-I, Volume No.3001, at pages 177 to 178, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Bengaluru, and Sale Deed dated 02-11-1995, executed by Sri. F Johnson Pereira, in favour of Sri. V Manjunatha, in respect of Site No.1393, which is registered as document No.7848/1995-96, in Book-I, Volume No. 1219, at pages 112 to 117, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Krishnarajapura. In this connection, a police complaint has been lodged on 26.06.2026, vide Report No.2275655/2026, with the Police Station, Bangalore.

Any person finds the document may handover the same to the undersigned within 7 days from this day. If the said document is misused by anybody, it shall not be binding on my client, and they shall be doing so at their own costs and risks.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No. 1393 (bearing BBMP A-Khata No. 1370/1393 dated 27/10/2016), measuring East to West: 40 Feet North to South: 30 Feet, together with the residential house constructed thereon, old PID No. 1249, layout formed in Sy. Nos. 115/1, 116 to 121, 122/1, 122/2, 124/1, 124/3, 125, 131/1, 131/3 of Kundalahalli, Sy. Nos. 39 to 43 of Chinnappanahalli, K.R. Puram Hobli and Sy. Nos. 8 and 73 of Tubarahalli, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru District, formed by the Aircraft Employees Cooperative Society Ltd., approved by the BDA, Bengaluru, situated in AECS Layout, Bengaluru and bounded on the: East by: Road, West by : Site No. 1386, North by : Site No. 1392, South by : Site No. 1394

S.M. BIRADAR, Advocate
No.83, 2nd floor, Sunkalpet Main Road,
Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-560002.
Mobile No. 9980949477

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed the General public that, my client B.P. Thimmaiah, S/o. B.P. Ponnappa aged about 56 years, residing at Ballamavatti Village and Post, Kodagu has entered into an agreement of sale with Sri. R. Vasudeva Rao S/o. K. Rama Rao, residing at Channasandra, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk to purchase the land bearing Sy.No. 115, measuring 2 acres out of 4 acres 20 guntas towards the Western side of land, situated at Channasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk for a valuable sale consideration amount of Rs. 1,30,00,000/- under the agreement of sale dated 27.11.2006 and paid the substantial advance amount in part performance of the agreement of sale and my client is intending to resort to the legal proceedings to obtain the absolute sale deed from the Vasudeva Rao. In the mean time general public are hereby informed not to deal or transact with the said R. Vasudeva Rao in respect of the schedule property mentioned hereunder and inspite of this public notice if anybody were to indulge in any transaction whatsoever will be doing so at their own risk and same does not bind my client in enforcing the agreement of sale executed by R. Vasudeva Rao in respect of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of property bearing land Sy.No. 115, measuring 2 acres out of 4 acres 20 guntas towards the Western side of the land, situated at Channasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk and bounded on:- East by : Remaining property of the Vendor in the same Survey number and hereafter private property, West by : Survey No. 140, North by : Survey No. 115 and land belongs to others, South by : Survey No. 115 land belongs to others.

K.H. THIMMAIAH, Advocate
Dikshit Associates, No.612, Chandra Building, Avenue Road, Bengaluru-560002.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **Smt. Smitha Sambasastry Viswas W/o B.V. Santosh,** intends to purchase Property bearing **Plot/ Site No. 192,** bearing **BDA PID No. 6000019787,** in the layout known as **"Bluejay Ardley Release-II",** approved by BDA vide its Resolution bearing **No. 164/2013,** dated **21.12.2013,** and BDA has issued work order and release Order bearing **No. BDA/TPM/PRL-47/2012-13** dated **20.02.2014,** carved out of **Survey No. 35/12 (Old Survey No. 35/8)** measuring **East to West 12.19 meters** and **North to South 9.14 meters,** totally measuring **111.42 square meters,** situated at Doddabele Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, and bounded on the:

East by : Road
West by : Plot No. 197
North by : Plot No. 191
South by : Plot No. 193

from its present owner **Sri. Rahuldev Vallabhaneni** S/o V. Rambabu Vallabhaneni. Persons having any right, claim/ objection or interest over the said property may lodge their objections/ claims with documentary evidence within **10 (Ten) days** to the undersigned.

Yogendra H.
Satya Narayana Reddy
Advocates.

Law Senate
No. 9, 1st Floor, 4th B Main,
4th Stage, 4th Block, Basaveshwaranagar,
Magadi Main Road, Bangalore - 560079.
Mobile: 9845845274.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Take notice that our client proposes to purchase all that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Survey No.176 measuring 01 Acre, situated at Bagaluru Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, old Bangalore North Taluk, hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property", from its owner, Basha Sab aged about 89 years, son of Kasim Sab, residing at No.115, Buden Sab Palya, Bagalur, Bengaluru -562 149, the said Basha Sab and his legal heirs have appointed our client as their constituted power of attorney holder vide General Power of Attorney dated 22.05.2026, registered as Document No.77/2026-27 and has entered into an Agreement to Sell dated 22.05.2026 with our client in respect of the Schedule Property.

Any person, authority or entity (incorporated or otherwise) having any right, title, interest, claim or pending litigation in respect of the Schedule Property is called upon to contact the undersigned with details of such right, title, interest, claim or pending litigation together with supporting documents within a period of seven (7) days from the date of this notice, failing which such right, title, interest or claim shall be considered waived or given up. Objections received after a period of seven (7) days from the date of this notice shall neither be entertained nor binding on me.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the immovable property being Dry Land bearing Survey No.176 measuring to an extent 01 Acre, situated at Bagaluru Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, old Bangalore North Taluk, and bounded on
East by : Land belongs to Narasimha and Muniyamma,
West by : Land belongs to Nandhigudi and Muniyappa,
North by : Bande,
South by : Bande,
Place : Bangalore **Date :** 27/6/2026

Nousheen Sultana Advocate
No.226, 7th Main Road,
Pillana Garden, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560045

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that my client, intends to purchase the immovable property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from **1. Sri. K. Shanmugan** Son of Sri. R. Krishnappa and his wife **2. Smt. Chandramma,** wife of Sri. K. Shanmugan, who claims to be the absolute owner and in lawful possession and enjoyment of the said property.

Any person(s), bank(s), financial institution(s), government authority(ies), or any other entity having any right, title, interest, claim, lien, charge, mortgage, lease, tenancy, inheritance right, easement, attachment, litigation, acquisition proceedings, or any other encumbrance whatsoever over the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned in writing, together with documentary proof supporting such claim, **within 15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice.

Failing receipt of any such claim or objection within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no person has any claim, right, title, interest, or objection in respect of the Schedule Property, and my client shall proceed with the purchase of the same. Thereafter, any claim, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived and abandoned as against my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable **Property bearing Plot/Site.No.12,** Carved out of Property bearing Sy. No. 4/2A, as per Plan approved by Doddakannalli Gram Panchayath Katha No.403 for house sites present BBMP Katha No.2610/2437/12, E-PID No. 2012705896, measuring **East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet in all measuring 2400 Sq feet,** Situated at **Kasavanahalli Village, Varthuir hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** Presently comes under BBMP Limits and and Bounded on.

East By: Road, **West By:** Site No.9,
North By: Site No.13, **South By:** Site No.11.

D. SIVA KUMAR, ADVOCATE
M/s. SIVA LAW ASSOCIATES,
Advocates & Solicitors,
No. 22/2, 1st Floor, 7th Cross, Behind Police Station, Wilson garden, Bengaluru-560 027.
Place: Bengaluru Date: 28.06.2026

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited (Encore ARC)

acting in its capacity as the Trustee of EARC -EOT - 001 -Trust
Encore ARC Corporate Office Address: 5th Floor, Plot No. 137, Sector 44, Gurugram 122002, Haryana

Public Notice for e-Auction

e-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ('SARFAESI Act") read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & proviso to Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to IDFC First Bank Ltd. to secure dues in the loan account since assigned to Encore ARC (Secured Creditor) acting in its capacity as the Trustee of **EARC-EOT-001-TRUST**, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of IDFC First Bank Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 15.07.2026 at 11:00 a.m., for recovery of outstanding dues of **Rs.5,80,67,988.63/- (Rupees Five Crore Eighty Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty Eight and Sixty Three Paise Only) as on 27.06.2026 together with further interest from 28.06.2026 at contractual rate till recovery of outstanding amount and other costs, charges etc. due to the Encore ARC (Secured creditor), from Borrowers viz. (1). M/s. Sagarr Enterprises, (2). Mr. A. Vineet Kumar and (3). Mrs. Deepika Sajjan Rao Jain.**

The description of the mortgaged immovable property, the details of Reserve Price for the Secured Assets, the Earnest Money Deposit & Minimum Increment Amount in Bidding Process are as under:

Item Sr No.	Name of Account	Description of Property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)	Minimum Increment Amount in Bidding Process (In Rs.)
1.	(1). M/s. Sagarr Enterprises, (2). Mr. A. Vineet Kumar and (3). Mrs. Deepika Sajjan Rao Jain.	All that piece and parcel of Commercial Apartment Bearing No. F-1, Situated on the First Floor, having a super built up area of 1270 Square Feet, (and Undivided Share, Right Title and interest in the Land Of 19.94% Amounting to Approximately 259.8 Sq. Ft.) in the Commercial Building Named As "Ramesh Market", Existing on the Immovable Property Bearing Old Nos. 12 & 10, New No. 76, Pid No. 28-105-76, Situated at Diwan Khan Lane, Chickpet, B.B.M.P.Ward No. 28, (Chickpet) Banglore, Karnataka-560053, and Bounded As: East: Property No. 529/1, West: Diwan Khan Lane, North: Private Property, South: Private Property	3,00,00,000.00 (Rupees Three Crore Only)	30,00,000.00 (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Only)	1,00,000.00 (Rupees One Lakhs Only)

Date of Inspection of Secured Assets	06/07/2026 between 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Last Date of Submission of online Bid	Before 3.00 PM on 14/07/2026
Date & Time of e-Auction	15/07/2026 at 11.00 AM to 1:00 PM with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each as per Terms & Conditions mentioned below.
Auction Website:	https://bankeauctions.com

In case the e-Auction date is declared public holiday then the date will be automatically extended to the very next working day.

Since Encore ARC is acting in its capacity as Trustee of EARC-EOT – 001 -Trust only, any reference of its name in this Public Notice should be construed accordingly.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Encore ARC's website i.e. **https://www.encorearc.com and https://bankeauctions.com**

Interested bidders may contact Authorised officer of Encore ARC Mr. K.Nagendran Mobile No. 91762 91717, and Mr B.M. Nagaraju, on mobile no. 83840 74164 for any further information / query.

Date: 27.06.2026
Place: Chennai

K.Nagendran
Authorised Officer
Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited

HDFC BANK LIMITED

HDFC BANK
Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Bangalore Office: # 51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore - 560 001.
Tel: 080-41183000; CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618; Website: www.hdfcbank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (Sale through e-bidding only)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** issues E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to **Rule 8 (6)** of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) indicated in Column (A) that the below described immovable property(ties) described in Column (C) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken as described in column (D) by the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** as per the details mentioned below:

Notice is hereby given to Borrower / Mortgagor(s) / legal heirs, legal representatives (whether known or unknown) executor(s), administrator(s), successor(s) and assign(s) of the respective Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) (since deceased), as the case may be indicated in **Column (A) under Rule 8(6)** of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditor's **website i.e. www.hdfcbank.com**

Sr. No.	(A) Name/s of Borrower(s)/ Mortgager(s)/ Guarantor(s)/	(B) Outstanding dues to be recovered (Secured Debt) (Rs.)*	(C) Description of the Immovable Property / Secured Asset (1 Sq. mtr. is equivalent to 10.76 Sq.ft)	(D & E) Date of Auction and Time ---------- Type of Possession	(F & G) Reserve Price (Rs.) ---------- Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)
1	Mr. Mustafa Gulam (Borrower) Mrs. Mustafa Suriya (Co-Borrower 1) M/S. Infinite Builders and Developers (Co-Borrower 2)	Loan A/c No. (1) 631350263 Rs.4,78,64,794/- + (2) 634509656 Rs.6,09,506/- Total Amount Rs.4,84,74,300/- (Rupees Four Crore Eighty Four Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Only) as on 27.06.2026	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **No.44/1,PID No.81-6-44/1, Azeem Pearl, Dickenson Road, Civil Station, Bengaluru,** and construction there on present and future along with thereunder and various Furniture, Fixtures, Fittings, Equipments and other common amenities and facilities provided therein measuring 20269 Sq.ft of Built Up Area in the site totally measuring 4930 Sq.Ft and bounded as follows: **North by:** Property No.44, Dickenson Road; **South by:** Property No.44/2, Dickenson Road; **East by:** Property No.46, Ulsoor Road and; **West by:** Dickenson Road	13.08.2026 12.00 PM to 12.30 PM ---------- Physical	Rs.37,00,00,000/- [RupeesThirty Seven Crores Only] ---------- Rs.3,70,00,000/- [Rupees Three Crores Seventy Lakh Only]

1. **Inspection Date & Time: 17.07.2026 and 24.07.2026 between 11.AM TO 4.PM**
2. **Minimum bid increment amount: Rs.1,00,000/-**
3. **EMD Amount Submission on or before : 10.08.2026 (Before 5.00 PM)**

together with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and / or realisation thereof.
The online auction will be conducted on the web site https://biddeal.in of our auction agency M/s Valuetrust Capital Services Pvt Ltd.,
For any assistance related to inspection of the property, or for obtaining the Bid document and for any other queries, please get in touch with Mr.Yogesh.N / Shridhar Chinni, official of HDFC Bank Limited through Tel No.080-41182283, 080-41182126 / 9449080072 / 7795853045.
To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer of HDFC, there are no encumbrances in respect of the above immovable properties / Secured Assets.

Date: 28.06.2026
Place: Bangalore

For HDFC Bank Limited
Sd/- Authorized Officer, HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

"Geography serves, first and foremost, to wage war" — Yves Lacoste

THE MYSTERY OF BENGAL'S MISSING FOOTBALL HYSTERIA

INTEREST FREE

SANTWANA BHATTACHARYA
Editor
Follow her on X @santwana99

Unlike past World Cups, the denizens of Bengal are too preoccupied this time to argue over Messi and Mbappe. It's a sign that their primary field of consciousness is too crammed with events that call for urgent attention. Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh is making Cristiano Ronaldo-style efforts at tackling the state's problems

IS anyone even watching football in Bengal? For the first time in living memory, a World Cup is on but something is missing. A certain festive noise, a collective hum of frenzy that always rises in the East in sync with the event's arrival. All the old clock towers in Calcutta would rumble to a stop for a month. A spell of magic would descend on drab alleyways and crowded trams. Conversations would go from animated to supercharged. Bets would be placed. Friends would fall out. But there would be a sense of community in things that went unsaid. With each dazzling dribble and pass by the sorcerers of soccer, it was as if a world-historical moment was unfolding. If Brazil won, it was as if colonialism itself was being defeated and humanity was winning. There was hope.

The spectacle this time is very different. The gentle denizens of Bengal are too preoccupied. On what order of magnitude is the disturbance of equilibrium to be measured? The fact that they cannot bring their minds to focus on their beloved football is a fairly good yardstick. Only those unfamiliar with Bengal would think that to be a trivial symptom. Those who know, they know. It's a sign that the primary field of consciousness is too crammed with events that call for urgent attention. For sport to be able to carry the meaning of life, for it to be able to bring vicarious fulfilment of desire, for it to spin magic, everything else has to stay equal. The ground beneath one's feet must be stable, the sky must be blue, the morning fishmongers must go about with their singsong hollers.

Right now, things seem too fraught for Bengalis to be arguing over Messi and Mbappe. The question on people's lips is not whether Neymar can move from the left wing to the centre. It is whether Mahua Moitra and Bobby Hakim have such lateral dexterity. Unthinkable? Well, people are ready to believe anything because too many things of that ilk have already come to pass. Certitudes are collapsing all around, as eggless wonders rise! A wave of demolitions veered perilously close to even the venerable book bazaar at College Street—but mercifully stopped short of the ultimate sacrilege. Watching over all this is a goodly flock of ex-Trinamoolites. Some of them adept at Tagore. All great at dribbling themselves all the way to shifting goalposts.

In reality, what Bengal has lived through is a graded political transition from left to right, with a 15-year interregnum difficult to place within 2D Euclidean space, but the shift appears so sudden and profound that even its proponents seem a little disoriented. Maybe it's like what the late Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi of the Congress had once famously said—that Bengal's politics is "left, more left and far left". So it's possibly a bit like shifting from left-hand driving. In the confusion, the wrong Suhrawardy was deboarded. As the new finance minister Swapan Dasgupta may have written in his former avatar, these things happen when you shift from halal to jhatka.

Judging from the flow of memes on the World Cup, Kerala appears in a psychologically more serene place than Bengal despite a fairly momentous political transition of its own. That also means the debates going on right now have the luxury of being more thoroughgoing and introspective. Of course there is that never-ending chatter flowing from the deep animus between the local Congress and Left, which always kept up even when Bengal was willing to dangle on the Dange Line. But stripped of rhetoric, examined on fundamentals, V D Satheesan's budget is not too dissimilar from Pinarayi Vijayan's last, or what Dasgupta offered to Bengal. A bit of welfare, an open call to investors, some rearrangement of furniture inside a tight fiscal room.

Any deeper theoretical questions? Like how to measure relative poverty? You could pose those to any one of the 1.6 million Bengali guest workers in Kerala—where the term 'Bengali' is shorthand for all migrant labourers from distant lands. Bengal's distress in recent times has been such that analysts have taken to eking out economic readings from even Jibananda Das's poetry! "Instead of a world-weary soul coming back to harmony in Bengal's beloved landscape, was he not actually talking about Jagat Seth's trade exploits in Ceylon and the Malaya Sea and beyond?" they ask. Well, those days of financial dominance are long gone. One day, historians will get to compare the playmaking skills of Swapan Dasgupta with the erudite Asim Dasgupta, the MIT-trained Marxist FM from the Jyoti Basu era.

Leave behind those two states that are usually rapt in navel-gazing, and you can behold Andhra Pradesh, where the mood is entirely different. The historic Amaravati bestows its name to the future. CM Chandrababu Naidu has got the entire state agog in his usual way—from Vizag on the coast, where a new Google data centre is coming up, to the new capital and the beautiful, hill-lined Vijayawada across the Krishna river. Andhra Pradesh is also attempting a Cristiano Ronaldo-style bicycle kick on old ideas of population control, to nullify the limiting effects of delimitation. Again, we'll pass that ball to future historians.

ARE YOU AND I INDIAN CITIZENS?

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

THE question stings even sharper now than it did a year ago. Seventy-nine years after independence, after every flag-hoisting promise of a confident Indian Republic, after billions poured into digital identities that were sold as the unbreakable chain linking every Indian to the nation, Indians are still left clutching documents that the State itself now treats as scraps of paper in the rain. A year back, the Bombay High Court tore through the illusion with brutal clarity when it denied bail to an accused infiltrator and declared that Aadhaar, PAN and voter ID prove nothing about citizenship. The Supreme Court, in parallel proceedings, echoed the same cold truth about Aadhaar.

The torment began from there. If these tokens of belonging collapse under legal scrutiny, then what remains of the India Bharatiyas thought they were part of? That wound has now been ripped open wider by the ministry of external affairs. On Passport Seva Divas, it announced that the Indian passport is nothing more than a travel document and carries no conclusive weight as proof of citizenship. The very ministry that issues this document under the Passports Act has chosen to publicly detach it from the citizenship the Act was written to protect.

The torment deepens because this is not some distant legal quibble. It is the State reaching into the pocket of every citizen who has ever queued at a Passport Seva Kendra, submitted biometrics, and walked out believing the blue booklet affirmed their place in the nation. The Passports Act itself was framed in the language of belonging. Its preamble categorically states that passports would be given to those who are citizens of India. These opening words make this purpose unmistakable. Yet, the MEA now tells ordinary Indians that the passport they carry as the face of the nation proves nothing about who they are. This is not evolution of law. It is escalation of the same betrayal the courts exposed a year ago.

Then, plastic and digital tokens were stripped of meaning. Now, India's most solemn travel document is added to the pile of hollow proofs. The torture is not abstract. It lives in the quiet panic of families whose roots reach back to undivided India, whose papers vanished with Partition and time, and who now wonder whether even the passport they renewed last year will survive the next verification drive. The contradictions cut deeper than any courtroom observation. When the same MEA appoints heads of missions to represent India in foreign capitals, it hands them diplomatic passports on the strength of service records and the ordinary Indian passports it now disowns. Foreign governments accept these credentials without asking for extra proof of nationality.

SOURAV ROY

Elected members of Parliament and state Assemblies declare their citizenship through nomination papers backed mainly by voter registration certificates. No separate citizenship certificate is demanded or produced. If neither the passport nor the voter ID can establish that someone is Indian, how do these officials qualify to speak for the country or make its laws? The State extends quiet presumptions to those who govern while demanding ever more elusive proof from those who are governed. This asymmetry leaves ordinary citizens exposed while shielding the political class.

Political reactions have only sharpened the divide. Opposition leaders have seized on the MEA statement as proof of deliberate confusion. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi described it as "an attempt to create an atmosphere of suspicion against every Indian so that the government can justify its voter-list purges". West Bengal's former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee went further, calling the clarification "a dangerous game that questions the very identity of citizens who have lived here for generations". Leaders from the INDIA bloc have echoed this, arguing that the timing is no coincidence.

With voter-list revisions active in Bihar and West Bengal, they see the MEA intervention as a way to soften public resistance to stricter scrutiny by first undermining faith in existing documents. Government and BJP voices have pushed back with equal force, insisting the clarification is nothing new. A BJP spokesperson dismissed the outrage as "opposition mischief" aimed at distracting from the government's efforts to clean electoral rolls of illegal entries.

However, a section of the BJP leadership has privately echoed that the MEA's "elitist" framing has created unnecessary domestic trouble, damaging the government's image at a time it is performing strongly on other fronts. They believe the statement should have come from the home ministry, which actually handles citizenship, rather than from diplomats who do not understand the political sensitivities involved. These competing narratives have left citizens caught in the crossfire.

The numbers reveal the scale of the confusion. Only about 2.5 percent of Indians hold passports. The government spent over ₹12,000 crore building Aadhaar as the ultimate biometric link to existence. It is mandatory for banking, taxation and travel. Yet when the question turns to citizenship, the same system is dismissed as irrelevant.

The Register of Citizens, the one document prepared after systematic government diligence every decade, remains frozen since 2011. A young professional applying for a job abroad now wonders whether her or his passport will be enough. The impact travels beyond borders. When India's own government signals that its passport does not prove nationality, foreign immigration authorities gain fresh licence to demand extra verification from Indian travellers, students and professionals.

Identity has been turned into perpetual interrogation. Citizenship has been reduced to suspicion. The latest blow has turned private anxiety into public policy. It arrives at a moment when the home ministry remains silent on the larger question of what actually constitutes proof of citizenship. The result is a system that demands evidence it knows millions cannot easily produce and then dismisses the evidence it has itself created. The motive appears less about doctrinal purity and more about manufacturing ambiguity at a politically charged juncture.

India needs to end this democratic disgrace. It must issue like the US and Germany, a single, sovereign citizen card under the Citizenship Act that conclusively establishes nationality, voter eligibility and identity in one secure document. Other nations resolved this long ago. India has spent decades and vast sums building fragmented systems that the State itself can declare hollow at will. Until that single card exists, crores of Indians will continue to clutch their documents like charms, only to be told they are nothing more than scraps of plastic. The cruellest truth remains. After 79 years of freedom, the question of who is an Indian still drifts unanswered, haunting the very idea of India. As of now, I am a voter. But what about the future?

BEYOND EL NIÑO: FROM IDEAS TO RELIEF

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic*, *Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

GOVERNANCE in India is afflicted by a kind of retrograde amnesia. Every crisis revives the same lessons, and every calm period shelves intent and ideas. If Newton's law has a political cousin, it is this: momentum for reform rises with the pressure of crisis, and evaporates once the crisis retreats.

Now that the Strait of Hormuz is open again, the heated calls for resilience, for transition to renewables and for conservation seem to have fallen silent. But water scarcity and water cuts are an all-season urban reality. The systemic response is to treat the structural as cyclical— El Niño, bad monsoon or extreme events.

India is a nation of competing crises and conflicting compulsions. Politics and policy follow a familiar pattern: from hectic rhetoric to insolent drift, leaving the challenge of resilience and resolution for another day. There is no dearth of innovative climate solutions—from geothermal and ocean-wave energy to solar-powered desalination, from AI enabled precision farming to smart urbanisation—that can be adapted and adopted to deliver relief.

Europe is a red-hot zone this week as soaring temperatures notch new highs. To combat heat, cities are deploying district cooling systems. In Paris, water from the Seine is used in cooling networks for major institutions like the Louvre. Toronto's Deep Lake Water Cooling system draws water from Lake Ontario to cool towers, hospitals and data centres. Stockholm's district cooling system takes water from the Baltic Sea to onshore heat exchangers to provide 'free cooling' to the city grid.

While it is tempting to imagine Sabarmati water being used to cool Ahmedabad, India faces far more fundamental problems. The monsoon has arrived, but it is expected to be the weakest in 11 years, with cumulative rainfall so far 42 percent below normal. That deficit leaves cities with little option but to continue with water cuts. India receives over 1,800 mm of precipitation in a normal year, but most of it falls in just four months, while demand runs through all 12. The real constraint is an inadequate storage and distribution system.

That is why climate adaptation must be treated not as crisis management but as infrastructure policy. Morocco's solar-powered desalination plants serve 17 million people in Casablanca and Rabat. Namibia's plant delivers 20 million cubic metres of clean water, Jordan's Aqaba-Amman project is designed to produce 300 cubic metres a year. Dubai is building the world's largest solar-powered desalination plant. St George in Utah, US is setting up a project to derive clean water from wastewater.

Spain is harnessing the power of waves deploying floating buoys, ocean thermal and floating solar pontoons to power desalination plants in Gaia and Canary islands. South Korea, France and Canada are tapping tidal power. In California, a new project dubbed 'water farms' is taking the filtration process below the surface, cutting energy costs. The value of the model is not just clean power, but cleaner and more resilient water production.

India is blessed with over 300 days of sunlight and a coastline of 11,098 km. The western seashores are blessed with sunlight, wind for turbines and ocean energy. India aspires to host a large number of data centres and AI infrastructure, which require millions of gallons of water and power. Think about it: desalination plants powered by renewables could serve cities, industry and even AI infrastructure. Wastewater recycling, district cooling and coastal energy systems can all be adapted to Indian conditions. India's geography presents an opportunity to leverage emerging technologies to quench thirst and fuel its economy.

Central to the challenge of India being stranded in the low-middle income category is that nearly half its workforce is working on farms even as per-capita land holdings shrink and the spectre of climate stress intensifies on availability of water, soil conditions, output and incomes. Every forex or fiscal crisis hurts farmers as prices of fuel and inputs soar. Climate stress makes it worse. If India is to avoid the low-middle income trap, it must treat climate innovation not as a luxury but as a productivity strategy.

Renewable energy is a new crop in farms in the US, France, Italy and South Africa. Integrating solar power panels with grazing and crop fields enables multiple use of scarce resources and additional income for farmers, while protecting soil moisture and crops. Farmers in Canada and California have embraced precision farming. It brings together the potential of data, sensors, drones and AI. Smart irrigation cuts costs and water usage, CRISPR allows precise gene edits to protect plants, drone crop monitors nutrient sensors and AI-enabled harvesters deliver just-in-time value.

Innovations have spurred the rise of vertical farms in Singapore and the Netherlands. Dickson Despommier, the 'father' of vertical farming, claims the efficiency of each floor of a one-acre vertical farm could be equal to 10-20 soil-based acres. The UAE and Saudi Arabia have heavily subsidised vertical farming as a food security strategy. Urban centres in Rotterdam house vertical farms. Singapore is growing food in car parks and retrofitted buildings. Can the ugly spaces in India under metro tracks and flyovers be repurposed on lease for vertical farming? The future of farming cannot be one solution, but a basket of innovations.

The politics of adaptation in India must move beyond doom framing to deliverable solutions. Theory states that voters care about water, electricity and jobs. Politicians and the babudom respond to incentives. The choice before India is not whether it can afford to adapt—it is between adaptation and abdication.

QUOTE CORNER

The evidence shows that Palestinian children have been deliberately targeted and killed by the Israeli security forces. Even after the October 2025 ceasefire, children continue to be killed and seriously injured, with continued disregard by Israel for the ceasefire and for the protection owed to Palestinian children under international law.

Justice S Muralidhar, former Delhi High Court judge who chaired the UN Human Rights Council's International Commission of Inquiry for Palestine

The biggest emerging risk is a digital divide between organisations that can adopt AI defensively and those that cannot.

Kate (mononymic), technical director at UK's National Cyber Security Centre, on AI-enabled threats to critical infrastructure

I have two very, very important people in my life. An Indian and a Pakistani. The Indian is my wife, and the Pakistani is Field Marshal Munir.

J D Vance, US Vice President, at the Lake Lucerne summit

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Resident Editor (Karnataka): **Nirad G Mudur** * Published by **N Gopalan** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No.1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099.

Bengaluru. Vol. 27, No. 26 RNI Reg. No. KARENG\2000\03040. Phone: 080-22866893.

* Responsible to decide the matter under the PRP Act.
Copyright: Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Flaunting power

Ref: *Make smaller VIP convoys the rule* (Jun 27). I landed in Allahabad at 17 in 1953 as a student. Nehru used to visit the town every 3 months to nurse his constituency, Phulpur. His convoy—from the airport to Swaraj Bhawan to Phulpur, back to the city and then to the airport—consisted of a motorcycle-riding pilot, the car carrying Nehru, then another car followed by a police van with seven armed constables and an officer. That's all! Security was a concern then, too, especially after Mahatma Gandhi's assassination. Nowadays, VIPs have king-size egos, preferring pomp to the expected performance for public good. It would be quite a task to make them stop flaunting their power on the road.

Rajan Ugra, Bengaluru

Vijay's approach

Ref: *Smaller VIP convoys* (Jun 27). The apt editorial reminded our leaders that they are elected to serve the people, not to get in their way. Ironically, many so-called VVIPs seem to believe that the size of their vehicle convoy reflects their status. Such displays only inconvenience the public and project an inflated sense of self-importance. In this context, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's decision is highly commendable. It sets an example that public convenience should always take precedence over VIP privilege.

K Gopakumar Menon, Thrissur

Tracing roots

Ref: *Tracing the family tree of trees* (Jun 27). Pratik Kanjilal's observations made for an insightful, interesting and thought-provoking article. Some trees are reported to have survived for aeons. Many have religious importance attached in that saints and philosophers are believed to have meditated under them. But it's futile to trace the family tree of trees, as many trees get their tags from the belief of association. Let us take the positive lessons from them not dig into the past.

R Sampath, Chennai

Inculcating ethics

Ref: *FIR in Ram temple fund case* (Jun 26). We have seen a number of reports of unethical conduct in recent days. There was a paper leak in Maharashtra teachers' test. Before that, there was nationwide agitation against the NEET paper leak and CBSE exam's technical glitch. Now we have theft charges levied on functionaries at the Ayodhya Ram temple. Basically, our society is moving away from ethical values. Earlier parents, teachers and elders used to inculcate moral values in people; this is missing nowadays. We should go back to the old-school approach towards moral values, otherwise people will lose confidence in the nation.

Bagavatula Sundar, Chennai

Language relief

Ref: *Relief for lakhs as CBSE eases language policy* (Jun 27). The decision to exempt middle-school students from an abrupt language change is highly pragmatic. While the National Education Policy's focus on Indian languages is structurally sound, forcing a sudden curriculum shift would have caused immense academic disruption. Implementing these changes prospectively from Class 6 protects the existing batches from unnecessary panic. Educational reforms must always balance long-term national goals with short-term stability.

Simran Kandoi, Hyderabad

Balanced development

Ref: *CM announces 'Go East' platform* (Jun 27). The Odisha government's decision to identify 15 economically backward districts, including Malkangiri, Koraput and Kalahandi, as priority areas reflects a balanced approach to regional development. Large industries often create opportunities for thousands of smaller enterprises through supply chains, logistics, packaging, maintenance services and manufacturing. For instance, food-processing units in Koraput can add value to the local millet, coffee and turmeric production, while small enterprises in Malkangiri can benefit from bamboo processing, forest-based products, agro-processing and transport services.

Animesh Mistry, Malkangiri

POSTS OF THE DAY

Supriya Shrinate @SupriyaShrinate
If it were any other country, the Defense Minister who insulted the martyrs would have to resign. Here, lies are being spoken with such zeal

Aaditya Thackeray @AUThackeray
You can never steal the thoughts of Balasaheb that reside in the hearts of the people of Washim, their loyalty towards Uddhav saheb!

Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari
Remembering the Man behind India's victory against the war with Pakistan in 1971 Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw ji on his death anniversary

Navy ships in Thailand, Seychelles as India steps up Indo-Pacific outreach

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

INDIA is working both flanks of the Indian Ocean over the weekend, docking warships in Thailand and Seychelles as PM Narendra Modi arrived in Victoria for Seychelles' 50th National Day, in a twin push to deepen maritime ties and sell its home-built warships and weapons across the Indo-Pacific.

In the eastern Indian Ocean, three Eastern Fleet warships, the indigenous BrahMos-armed stealth frigate INS Udaygiri, the anti-submarine warfare (ASW) corvette INS Kavaratti and the fleet tanker INS Shakti, sailed into Sattahip, Thailand, on Saturday as part of an operational deployment, led by Rear Admiral Alok Ananda, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.

Received by Thai Navy

The task group was received by the Royal Thai Navy. The port call, the Navy said, "reflects India's continued maritime engagement with Southeast Asia."

The task group was received by the Royal Thai Navy. The port call, the Navy said, "reflects India's continued maritime engagement with Southeast Asia" and its longstanding partnership with Thailand, while showcasing the "indigenous design, modular construction and state-of-the-art technology" of Indian warships.

The Sattahip call comes two days after Udaygiri and Kavaratti wrapped up a port visit to Ho Chi Minh City, departing Vietnam on Wednesday, the first major Indian naval deployment to the country since the two sides elevated ties to an enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership in May.

It also follows India's sharpening arms-export thrust in the region. Defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh disclosed at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore last month that New Delhi had signed a deal to supply BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to Vietnam, making Hanoi the second foreign buyer of the Indo-Russian missile after the Philippines, with Indonesia next in line.

Vietnam has long sought the shore-based, anti-ship variant of the BrahMos to strengthen its coastal defences in the South China Sea. To the west, INS Ikshak, an indigenously built survey vessel (large), reached Port Victoria on Friday to join Seychelles' golden jubilee National Day celebrations. The 110-metre ship, the third of four Sandhayak-class survey vessels built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, will also run medical camps and distribute essential supplies during the visit. The Navy said the deployment reaffirms India's commitment to maritime ties and to "peace, security and stability" in the Indian Ocean Region.

Modi to renew bonds with 'valued partner' Seychelles

PM reiterates New Delhi's strategic focus on Indian Ocean region

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi landed in Seychelles on Saturday on a three-day official visit, reiterating India's strategic focus on the Indian Ocean as New Delhi seeks to deepen maritime partnerships under its Vision MAHASAGAR initiative. During the visit, he will hold talks with President Patrick Herminie, attend the golden jubilee celebrations of Seychelles' National Day as the Guest of Honour, address the National Assembly, and review the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation.

The visit comes as India steps up engagement with key Indian Ocean partners amid growing geopolitical competition in the region and renewed emphasis on maritime security, the blue economy and sustainable development. Ahead of his departure from New Delhi, Modi described Seychelles as a "valued maritime neighbour" and a key partner in India's Vision MAHASAGAR—Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions—and India's broader commitment to the Global South.

"Seychelles is a valued maritime neighbour and a key partner in the Vision MAHASAGAR and our shared commitment to the Global South," Modi said. Emphasising the strategic importance of the visit, he added: "Together, we will work to advance the progress of our peoples, and promote security and prosperity in Indian Ocean region."

PM Narendra Modi with Seychelles President Patrick Herminie on Saturday | PTI

Maritime security in focus, 'Lespwar' gifted

India handed over Fast Patrol Vessel 'Lespwar', ten utility vehicles, five laser radial boats and six ambulances to Seychelles. Later, President Herminie hosted a state banquet in honour of the PM, during which both leaders reaffirmed commitment to expanding India-Seychelles ties.

Upon his arrival in the country Modi was warmly received by President Patrick Herminie and accorded a ceremonial welcome. Senior Seychellois dignitaries and members of the Indian community participated in the reception, which featured cultural performances highlighting the close people-to-people ties between the countries.

The visit marks Modi's first trip to Seychelles since 2015 and follows President Herminie's visit to India earlier this year. In his first official engagement, Modi and President Herminie participated in a tree-planting ceremony at the Seychelles National Botanical Garden, where they planted a sapling of the iconic Coco de Mer palm. The event linked India's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative with Seychelles' Independence Day greening campaign.

The leaders also visited the Aldabra giant tortoise enclosure. Seychelles had earlier gifted Aldabra tortoises to India. Maritime security remained the central theme of the visit as Modi formally handed over the Fast Patrol Vessel 'Lespwar' which means "Hope" in Creole to President Herminie as a gift from Indian government. India also handed over ten utility vehicles, five laser radial boats and six ambulances to Seychelles, aimed at strengthening the island nation's maritime surveillance, disaster response and defence capabilities.

KUNAL SHAH

A FOUNDER'S NON-TECH REPLY TO TECH CEOs

PADMINI DHRUVARAJ

MANDAR PARDIKAR

KUNAL Shah suddenly finds himself in the global league of Indian business heads whose job is to helm products and companies for which India is one of the biggest markets. However, he is cut out differently than a Sundar Pichai or a Satya Nadella. He is a man of the start-up ecosystem, a non-techie, who has taken years to consolidate his position and reach the high table.

Before Meta hired him to lead WhatsApp, he was known as a founder, angel investor, mentor and philosopher of sorts, someone who had made his millions and was comfortable multiplying them through smart investments in start-ups. He lectured prolifically, appeared in podcasts, became a defender of high valuations amid criticism that they do not always lead to profits.

An MBA dropout is an unusual choice to lead a tech product in an established global company. Usually, start-up founders give way—rather are forced to give way—to professional CEOs by institutional investors. Shah's moving to WhatsApp could be one of those rare occasions when a professional CEO has made way for a start-up founder and angel investor.

The tech and start-up worlds are divided on what could be the reason for Meta to bet on Shah, but there are plenty of clues in his career that can offer insight. He first came into the spotlight in 2010 when he co-founded FreeCharge, a digital payments and mobile recharge platform that quickly became one of the country's biggest consumer internet success stories.

Shah's leadership of FreeCharge was preceded by a string of odd jobs Shah did to manage himself while pursuing education. His family business, incidentally, had suffered a setback, leaving him to fend for himself. So, he delivered parcels to customers before gig economy became a big thing and took up a bland job of a data-entry operator, so that the family was not burdened further.

Shah hit the headlines more prominently when, in 2015 in the pre-Unicorn rush days, Snapdeal snapped up FreeCharge for USD400 million (though its valuation soon dropped). Shah did not become terribly liquid with this deal, but got enough of Snapdeal stocks that kept him in the business. Despite a crash in Snapdeal's valuation later, he picked up enough cash to become a successful angel investor.

The Snapdeal exit was large enough for him to bootstrap CRED, his next venture that that is now valued at USD4.5 billion thanks to Meta's 900 million investment. Built around rewarding users for paying credit card bills on time, CRED later expanded into lending, payments and financial services. Given that WhatsApp is the most popular messaging app in India, present almost in every smartphone in the country, and is well integrated in the UPI ecosystem, observers see the twin Meta shots of investment in CRED and putting Shah in-charge of the app's global operations as a logical future course.

NEWSMAKER

An Ahmedabad man from a business family, raised in the Indian financial capital in Mumbai, grown on interests of psychology, philosophy and behavioural economics and experience in fintech start-ups, Shah has an enviable background that consumertech would want to build on. His social media posts and speeches, consequently, explore consumer habits, decision-making and long-term thinking rather than technology alone.

As Shah rose in the popularity ladder, the start-up world knew it was dealing with an unusual character. As recently as in 2024, Naukri.com founder and investor Sanjeev Bikhchandani famously described why Shah chose philosophy as a subject: was it low marks in school or an interest in the subject? "He told me it was neither. His family had gone bankrupt and he had to work as a delivery boy and a data entry operator full time. And philosophy was the only subject where the classes were from 8 am to 10 am. Salute," Bikhchandani wrote on X.

And the, Meta saluted Kunal Shah two years later. His emergence on the global stage is as much about the crests and troughs of the journey of a start-up founder as it is about the fast-changing scenario in a global tech company where product leadership is claiming its just space right at the top.

BJP's 'Sabka Saath' mantra to reflect in cabinet reshuffle

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

Rejig of party organisation likely as well

The BJP is also likely to revamp the party organisation, along with the cabinet rejig. Both are being designed to reinforce PM Modi's "vision of an inclusive political and governance model". For example, the recent restructuring of the party's Uttar Pradesh unit, where the new team has been crafted to ensure representation across major social groups.

THE much-anticipated reshuffle of the Union Cabinet and changes in the BJP are likely to reflect the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas', which the party has started calling the expression of its core philosophy. If BJP insiders are to be believed, both exercises, expected in the coming weeks, are being designed to reinforce PM Narendra Modi's vision of an inclusive political and governance model.

The first indication of this strategy has emerged from the recent restructuring of the party's Uttar Pradesh unit. According to leaders, the new state team has been carefully crafted to ensure representation across major social groups, reflecting the BJP's attempt to consolidate its support among diverse communities ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. Insiders say that the rejig also provides an early indication of the party's broader vision for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

A senior BJP functionary said that the organisational changes in UP were only the beginning of a broader exercise and offered a glimpse of what to expect in the Union Cabinet reshuffle. "The BJP has become an aspirational movement and a catalyst for the people's desire to build a Viksit Bharat. Every decision taken by the party and the government will reflect our commitment to Sabka Saath for Sabka Vikas through Sabka Prayas," the senior BJP leader, who is a Lok Sabha MP, said.

Sources say that the party's social engineering in UP is aimed at making inroads into the Samajwadi Party's traditional support base among Other Backward Classes.

Party insiders have also indicated that the Cabinet reshuffle could feature more fresh faces than many anticipate. Rather than being driven solely by political accommodation, the exercise is likely to focus on achieving a broader social balance, ensuring that representation reflects the BJP's expanding national support base, they say.

Among the key factors expected to shape both reshuffles is greater representation for OBC communities, followed by Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other social groups. Women and young leaders are also expected to get more prominent roles, reflecting the BJP's effort to project a future-oriented leadership profile.

Despite a greater emphasis on younger faces, experienced leaders and senior ministers may be assigned important organisational responsibilities, enabling the party to combine continuity with generational renewal, sources said.

Why fuel prices still high amid drop in global crude oil rates, asks Cong chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

HITTING out at the Centre, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday questioned high fuel prices even when global crude oil rates had returned to the pre-West Asia war levels. He accused the BJP of "looting" and "pickpocketing" people, and alleged that the public has become just a means for the BJP to extract taxes and raise its collections.

Posing a set of three questions to the Government, the Congress chief said that during the peak of the war in West Asia, crude oil was at $138 per barrel. Back then, petrol was ₹94.77 a litre and diesel ₹87.67 a litre, he said, adding that at present, crude oil has fallen to $70.71 per barrel. "So why is the Modi government still selling petrol at ₹102.12 a litre and diesel at Rs 95.20 a litre?" he said in a post on X.

Domestic cylinders, the 5-kg small cylinders useful for migrants, and CNG—everything has been jacked up, he wrote. "Now that conditions are normal, why are the Modi government's hands trembling when it comes to cutting the prices," Kharge further asked. The Congress chief said when crude oil was expensive, the public suffered. Now that crude oil is cheap, why is it still that the public is bearing the brunt, he asked. "It's obvious – the public has become just a means for the BJP to extract taxes and raise its collections," he said.

The Congress has been accusing the NDA government of not reducing oil prices after they have come down globally. The opposition party has also accused the BJP of "looting" the public through higher taxes on petrol, diesel and LPG.

India-Japan summit to focus on eco security, supply chains & clean energy

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

ECONOMIC security, resilient supply chains and clean energy will dominate the agenda as Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi arrives in New Delhi from July 1-3 for the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit, her first official visit to India since taking office. The visit comes at a time when the countries are seeking to reduce strategic vulnerabilities in critical technologies and supply chains while deepening cooperation under their Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

Prime Minister Takaichi will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 2, with both sides expected to review bilateral ties and exchange views on regional and global developments. The summit follows PM Modi's visit to Tokyo for the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit in August 2025. A key outcome of the summit is expected to be a declaration on economic security, underlining the shared commitment of India and Japan to build resilient and trusted supply chains amid growing geopolitical uncertainty. According to sources, the declaration is aimed at strengthening consultations through the bilateral economic security dialogue framework during emergencies.

Biogas-powered mobility

Clean energy cooperation is expected to receive a major boost with India and Japan set to establish a new framework to promote biogas-powered mobility, sources said. The move aligns with India's energy security objectives by reducing dependence on imported crude oil while supporting cleaner transportation. Japan's Suzuki Motor has already begun producing biogas in India.

The two sides are also expected to deepen cooperation across key sectors vital to economic security like semiconductors, critical minerals including rare earths, clean energy and medical goods. The leaders are likely to highlight the importance of building resilient and credible supply chains.

In time! NTA buys 95K clocks to help students

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

IN a move to ensure that students complete their NEET-UG re-exam held on June 21 on time, the National Testing Agency (NTA) had procured 95,000 clocks so that each exam hall was equipped with one.

As watches, both digital and analog, are banned in exam halls under NTA guidelines, the move has benefited students in better time management. More than 20 lakh students appeared for the medical entrance re-exam at 5,440 centres in India and abroad. Officials said the agency will continue to provide clocks for future NEET-UG exams.

"Following the exam which was cancelled on May 3, we conducted a survey among students on the facilities they would require to perform better in the exams.

The need for the time to be displayed continuously during the duration of the test was repeatedly requested by the students," NTA Director General Abhishek Singh told this newspaper.

Some exam centres did have clocks but a majority did not have them. "To ensure a level-playing field, the NTA decided to purchase clocks for all the 95,000 exam halls in our centres. We took the decision by May end and had just three weeks to do so," the NTA Director General said. "Since the big players in the industry requested more time to provide 95,000 clocks, the order was placed with multiple smaller players to make the procurement faster," he said.

As a gesture of goodwill, the NTA has decided to permit the schools to retain the clocks with themselves so that it benefits students of the institutions. "In any case, many of them will be our future NEET-UG candidates," Singh said. The gesture was appreciated by students at multiple centres according to the feedback received, the Director General added.

Way back in August 2021, an advocate, Garima Singh, had made a strong pitch for placing clocks inside exam centres as time management was of crucial importance for students.

The NEET-UG retest was conducted amid heightened security measures, over a month after the examination was cancelled following allegations of a paper leak.

While the NTA described the exercise as glitch-free, many candidates said the question paper was tougher than the cancelled examination. The NTA Director General assured that the results of the re-examination will be released as soon as possible.

20 lakh STUDENTS appeared for the medical entrance re-test at 5,440 centres in India and abroad

Order was placed with multiple smaller players for timely deliveries

SURVEY AMONG STUDENTS INDICATE THAT MAJORITY WERE IN FAVOUR OF THE MOVE

Institutions are allowed to retain the clocks

Request was initially made in August 2021, by advocate Garima Singh, who had made a strong pitch for placing clocks inside exam centres as time management is crucial to students

LAND DISPUTE

A 48-year-old man died after he was allegedly stabbed by his nephew over a long-standing dispute over a plot of land in a village in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district, police said on Saturday.

1 MAN DIES AFTER FALLING INTO OPEN DRAIN IN MUMBAI

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	30	Mumbai	30	27
Bhopal	34	26	Panaji	27	25
Jaipur	40	31	Patna	37	29
Amritsar	40	31	Lucknow	41	31
Chennai	35	27	Port Blair	28	27
Kolkata	35	29	Imphal	29	23
Srinagar	32	18	Chandigarh	38	31

Civilian killed, 4 injured in unexploded shell blast

Explosion takes place near LoC close to Army post in Gulmarg, J&K

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

A civilian was killed and four others sustained injuries after an old unexploded shell detonated near Line of Control (LoC) close to the army post in Gulmarg sector in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. Police said a blast took place near Sumli Wali Dok near Army's Asha Post area, close to the LoC, in Gulmarg sector in north Kashmir in the afternoon.

In the explosion, five civilians sustained injuries and they were evacuated to a nearby health facility, where one of them, identified by cops as Zubair Ahmad Bajad, was declared brought dead.

According to police, preliminary investigations suggest that an unexploded shell believed to be remnant from an earlier period, went off leading to the death of the civilian.

Immediately after the blast, the Army and policemen reached the spot and sealed the area. Forensic experts also visited the blast site to collect the samples and other evidence for detailed analysis. Police and the Army haven't yet issued any statement about the blast.

Sources said that security officials are investigating the exact nature of the explosive device and circumstances that led to the explosion. "An investigation is going on," they said.

Spl DGP reviews security steps for Amarnath Yatra

J&K Special Director General of Police (Coordination) S J M Gillani on Saturday reviewed security arrangements at Bhagwati Nagar base camp and Tawi River Front here for the annual Amarnath yatra, scheduled to begin next week. Accompanied by senior officers of police and CRPF, Gillani assessed the arrangements at the key locations, police said. Gillani asked security agencies to ensure seamless and well-coordinated measures through inter-agency coordination for the, and peaceful conduct of the 57-day long yatra.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said that the unfortunate explosion of an unexploded shell near Gulmarg, claiming a life and injuring others is heartbreaking. "Praying for strength to the bereaved family, a speedy recovery of the injured and eternal peace to the departed soul," he said in a post on 'X'.

Police dispelled speculation that Army personnel sustained injuries in the blast. "No Army personnel have sustained any injuries," police said and cautioned that dissemination of inaccurate and unverified information has the potential to cause unnecessary concern, create confusion among the people and adversely affect public order.

Citizens were advised to rely only on information issued through official channels.

The incident has raised concerns over the lingering threat posed by unexploded shells in areas close to the LoC and International Border (IB) in J&K, where remnants of past shelling occasionally remain buried for years before detonating.

The tourist destination of Gulmarg, which is known world over for skiing, has witnessed heavy influx of visitors during the summer season.

Hundreds of tourists are visiting the Gulmarg health resort daily to experience its scenic beauty and pleasant weather and enjoy the Gandola ride.

2 ULFA(I) rebels linked to Paresh nabbed, terror attacks averted

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

ASSAM Police averted a "terror attack" by apprehending two members of the Paresh Baruah faction of the banned group United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent), or ULFA(I), along with arms and ammunition from Tinsukia.

The two were identified as self-styled second lieutenant Siyor Asom alias Humenjyoti Baruah (27) and self-styled second lieutenant Manoj Asom alias Papu Moran (30).

Two AK-56 rifles, 172 live rounds, two hand grenades, a medicine kit containing syringes and opioid medicines, food times meant for prolonged jungle survival, backpacks and other war-like stores, including cash, were seized.

"A terror attack was averted in Tinsukia. An intelligence-driven operation was carried out by Tinsukia Police with the help of central agencies yesterday where two active ULFA(I) cadres were apprehended at Jagun," a police statement read.

They further stated that preliminary investigation indicated the ULFA(I) had tasked the duo with carrying out indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilians in Tinsukia town.

"The planned modus operandi suggests the influence and support of external actors attempting to destabilise the region and disrupt public peace," the police said.

Cong to sound poll bugle with rallies in 10 U'khand dists amid factional feud

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

Districts divided into four zones

The party has divided the 10 mountainous districts into four zones and handed charge to senior leaders. The conferences will include rallies and worker meets

Buzz of internal rift

The campaign poster released for the hill outreach has sparked buzz of infighting as it features Godiyal, Pritam, Harak Singh and Mahara, but not ex-CM Harish Rawat and LoP Yashpal Arya

THE Congress in Uttarakhand is set to sound its electoral bugle from Sunday with a series of 'Parivartan Sankalp Sammelans' across 10 hill districts, but the campaign has triggered fresh murmurs of factional unease within the party even before its formal launch.

The party has divided the 10 mountainous districts into four zones and handed charge to senior leaders—Ganesh Godiyal, Pritam Singh, Harak Singh Rawat and Karan Mahara. The conferences will include worker meetings and public rallies in every Assembly segment, where the party plans to sharpen its attack on the ruling BJP and mobilise its cadre ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. However, the campaign poster released for the hill outreach has raised eyebrows. While it prominently features Godiyal, Pritam, Harak Singh and Mahara, the names and photos of ex-CM Harish Rawat and LoP Yashpal Arya are missing. The omission prompted former Congress MP Pradeep Tamta, considered close to Harish Rawat, to take a swipe on social media. Sharing the poster, Tamta wrote, "Does this indicate inclusive leadership?"

Party insiders see the remark as a clear signal of discontent in the Harish Rawat camp. The former CM was also not seen during the recent Dehradun visit of the party's state in-charge, Kumari Selja. At the time, his absence was explained by his presence in Delhi, but it had still fuelled speculation about unease within the state unit. The blueprint for the Hill conferences was finalised about a week ago. Officially, Harish Rawat and Yashpal Arya have not been assigned responsibility for any of the four zones.

Seeking to downplay any controversy, state Congress chief Ganesh Godiyal told this newspaper that both senior leaders remained central to the party's campaign plans. "Harish Rawat and LoP Yashpal Arya can participate in any assembly segment in any zone. We are moving ahead with a positive approach," Godiyal said.

KOLKATA DIARY

SUBHENDU MAITI
Our correspondent in West Bengal
subhendu.maiti@newindianexpress.com

State govt staff ordered to work on weekends

The Bengal BJP government has issued a notification and asked all its employees belonging to different wings under the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (P&AR) under the home department to attend duties on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays on a rotational basis. The prime aim of the notification issued by the state secretariat Nabanna is to assist senior officials in maintaining the normal flow of administrative work. The notification has been issued, as the senior administrative officers, including bureaucrats in respective departments, often do their work on weekends and public holidays.

Petition against fake lottery ticket rackets

A public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Calcutta High Court against alleged rackets of fake lottery tickets across districts in West Bengal. According to the court sources, one lawyer has filed the PIL alleging the rampant practice of selling fake lottery tickets. The racketeers using the name of the branded lottery agency are selling fake tickets in different districts in the state. The racketeers are also active in selling of fake tickets even on online platform, the petitioner alleged. Many people are being trapped by the racketeers and duped. The state government is also incurring loss in generating revenue from the lottery business, he alleged.

GST Council meeting in Kolkata in July

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her counterparts from all states across the country will get together in Kolkata in July. The reason: With the formation of first-ever BJP government in West Bengal the GST Council for the first time in the past 10 years, will hold its 57th meeting in Kolkata. The meeting is expected to be held in the second half of July and could take up the next round of indirect tax policy reforms. The Bengal BJP government felt that the state's positive moves initiated by the new CM Suvendu Adhikari for its overall development would be showcased in the meet.

Sops for MSME, semiconductor sectors in Raj

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

IN a major bid to boost Rajasthan's MSME, handicrafts, startup and electronics sectors, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Saturday announced a series of measures.

These include the development of artisan haats on a public-private partnership (PPP) model, incentives for the semiconductor industry under RIPS-2024, and financial assistance for 25 startups through the Rajasthan Venture Capital Fund. The Chief Minister also distributed cheques, subsidies and land allotment letters worth over ₹13 crore to beneficiaries and launched the Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy, the ODOP Coffee Table Book and the RAMP (Rising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Portal.

Addressing a special International MSME Day programme at the Constitution Club in Jaipur, Sharma said, "Micro, small and medium enterprises are the foundation of Rajasthan's economic progress, employment generation and self-reliance." He added that his government is committed to promoting entrepreneurship, giving local products a global recognition.

Shah flags 'high fare' of app-based cab giants, says will end hassle in 2 years

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

UNION Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday launched the cooperative-based 'Bharat Taxi' service in Gujarat, projecting it as a people-centric alternative to private app-based taxi platforms and declaring that the initiative would end exploitation of drivers and passengers.

Strengthening the rollout, MoUs were signed with key public institutions, including airports at Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Rajkot and Surat, along with the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and police, paving the way for operational expansion across Gujarat.

Several taxi drivers present at the programme urged the government not to permit privately owned taxi operators into the cooperative framework, arguing that unrestricted entry could dilute the purpose of creating a driver-owned platform. Shah said Bharat Taxi had been conceptualised to end the exploitation allegedly faced by drivers and commuters under private app-based taxi services.

"Today is a historic day for India's mobility sector. Private app-based taxi platforms have faced complaints of charging excessive commissions, delaying payments to drivers and arbitrarily stopping registrations. Bharat Taxi has been established on a cooperative model to eliminate these problems. Here, there will not merely be a driver but a 'sarathi', who is not only a service provider but also an owner of the cooperative institution," Shah said.

He dismissed reports claiming Bharat Taxi fares were expensive. "Our fares are competitive," he asserted.

95% women, 92% men back UCC in MP, say govt records

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

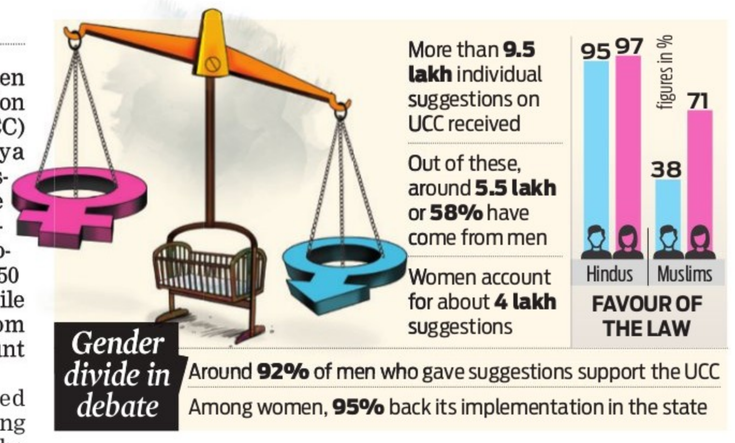
A higher percentage of women than men want the introduction of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh. Over 9.5 lakh suggestions about the UCC have been received by the government in the individual category, out of which around 5.50 lakh or 58% are from men, while 4 lakh suggestions are from women. Transgenders a count for around 100 suggestions.

While men outnumbered women when it came to making suggestions about the UCC, the women were ahead of men when it came to supporting the introduction of the UCC. According to statistics available with this newspaper, while 92% of men (5.1 lakh of the 5.5 lakh who made the suggestions) have come out in the UCC's support, 95%, or 3.8 lakh, of women, who gave suggestions, wanted its implementation.

A further break-up of men on religious lines revealed that of the 5.20 lakh Hindu men, 95% of 4.90 lakh supported the UCC, while out of the 3.70 lakh Hindu women, 97%, or 3.60 lakh, backed the move to have the UCC in the state. However, the most significant and sharp contrast in numbers supporting the UCC was visible in the Muslim community.

Though only 44,000 Muslims came out with suggestions on the sensitive issue to the government, 71%, or 10,500, women out of the 15,000 women who made the suggestions were in the UCC's support. On the contrary, out of the 29,000 Muslim men who sent their suggestions, merely 38%, or around just around 11,000, were actually supportive of the UCC being implemented in the state.

A total of 2,000 institutional suggestions too were received. According to sources associated with the high-level committee constituted by the state in April 2026 to study the UCC of U'khand, Gujarat and Assam and prepare the UCC draft for MP, all suggestions are being examined.


More than 9.5 lakh individual suggestions on UCC received
Out of these, around 5.5 lakh or 58% have come from men
Women account for about 4 lakh suggestions
figures in %
95
97
38
71
Hindus
Muslims
FAVOUR OF THE LAW
Gender divide in debate
Around 92% of men who gave suggestions support the UCC
Among women, 95% back its implementation in the state

Bengal to table UCC Bill on Monday

The Suvendu Adhikari-led BJP government in West Bengal is set to introduce the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in the Assembly on Monday during the ongoing Budget session, advancing a key electoral promise well ahead of its stated six-month implementation timeline.

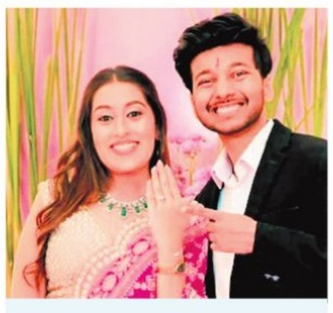
Cricket played cupid to Siya & Chetan: Brother

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

IN the high-profile Lohagad Fort murder case, a cricket connection has emerged linking accused Siya Goyal and her boyfriend Chetan Chaudhary in hatching the plan to eliminate 25-year-old Ketan Agarwal. As part of the investigation, the Pune police questioned Siya's brother Sahil Goyal, who revealed inside details about Siya and Chetan's relations and cricket as the centre point for that closeness.

According to Sahil, Siya used to come with him to watch his cricket matches, where she met Chetan Chaudhary (22), who allegedly hatched the conspiracy with Siya to push her fiancé Ketan Agarwal from Lohgad Fort, Lonawala. Ketan Agarwal (25), the son of a Pune-based developer, got engaged to Siya Goel (20) in May and planned their destination wedding for November 2026 in Jaipur in Rajasthan.

Meanwhile, the closeness between Siya and Chetan started growing. This has been confirmed by Siya's brother, who informed the police that her sister used to attend his cricket matches, and that is where she first met Chaudhary. He added that they met again at a Diwali party hosted by a common friend last year, following which they grew closer.



FORENSIC TEST

1. Both accused, Siya and Chetan, deleted texts
2. Police will be able to recover texts after a forensic examination
3. Digital evidence remains a key part of the probe

Chetan had a dream to pursue a professional career in cricket and even planned to play the Ranji Cricket matches. Siya was supportive in his career plan. According to investigators, Siya and Chetan had allegedly been in a relationship since October 2025. Police claim the two conspired to kill Ketan because Siya allegedly did not wish to proceed with the marriage, which had been scheduled for later this year.

The investigation has revealed that both accused had deleted their WhatsApp chats, Instagram conversations, and other digital records from their mobile phones. The deleted data is now undergoing forensic analysis to retrieve the full record of their conversations.

Police have seized CCTV footage from a café in Lonavala where Siya and Chetan are believed to have met on June 17, a day before the alleged murder.

According to investigators, the two spent nearly an hour at the café discussing their planned visit to Lohagad Fort. Police sources claim that they watched videos of the fort on a mobile device to familiarise themselves with the terrain before leaving the premises. Both wanted not to miss any small details when they executed their plan of eliminating Ketan Agarwal.

After the forensic examination of both accused, Siya and Chetan, the investigators will be able to recover the deleted messages, and that could help them to understand the sequence of events before and after the incident.

According to senior police officials, digital evidence has become a crucial part of the ongoing investigation.

3 injured and 10 Raj tourists detained in road rage in U'khand's Srinagar

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

Minor argument escalates into big fight

The dispute on Friday appeared to be a minor case of road-rage, but soon it spiralled into a bigger fight as both groups used violence. The tourists travelling in a car allegedly called assistance after the initial heated exchange. Soon after, the youths were reportedly attacked.

THREE local youths were injured on Friday night after an argument over overtaking a vehicle escalated into a fight between local residents and a group of tourists from Rajasthan in the Pauri Chungi area of Srinagar in Uttarakhand. This incident comes days after a scuffle between locals and Sikh pilgrims from Punjab in the Karnprayag area of Uttarakhand became an emotive issue between the two states, leading to the arrests of pilgrims.

According to eyewitnesses, the dispute on Friday appeared to be a minor case of road-rage, but soon it spiralled into a bigger fight as both groups used violence. The police said the tourists travelling in a car allegedly called assistance after the initial heated exchange. Soon after, the local youths were reportedly attacked with sticks and stones. Senior Sub-Inspector Pankaj Tiwari said the matter was being examined on the basis of a complaint filed by a local youth. "We have received a written complaint from one of the injured local youths. The matter is under investigation and action will be taken as per law after the facts are verified," he said.

A spokesperson for Srinagar police station in the Pauri Garhwal district said police teams rushed to the spot soon after receiving information about the incident and brought the situation under control. "Ten tourists from Rajasthan have been detained for questioning. The injured were sent for medical examination late at night. Statements of both sides are being recorded and further legal action will follow based on the investigation," the spokesperson said. The incident triggered tension in the area for some time, with local residents gathering after news of the assault spread. However, the police managed to prevent any escalation.

Officials said the situation is under control, though police personnel remained present in the area as a precautionary measure. The sequence of events and the role of each individual are being verified.

6.1-magnitude
quake hits Afghanistan, tremors felt in neighbouring Pakistan

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	25	17	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	31	26	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	14	13	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	22	17	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	26	19	SNY	Toronto	21	12	SNY
London	30	19	SNY	Washington	23	18	SNY

Fresh US, Iran strikes over Hormuz control

US-backed maritime body expands shipping route as threat to vessels remains substantial

DUBAI

IRAN launched a drone assault targeting Bahrain while a ship in the Strait of Hormuz separately came under attack Saturday, in Tehran's likely response to overnight airstrikes by the United States.

The US had launched airstrikes overnight in response to an Iranian drone attack on a container ship trying to leave the strait on Thursday, continuing a string of attacks that have shaken the war's uneasy ceasefire.

Meanwhile, a multinational maritime body overseen by the US Navy said Saturday that it would expand a route near Oman in the strait to allow for both inbound and outbound traffic. That likely sets up a new flashpoint with Tehran, which sees the strait as a key source of leverage in ongoing talks with the US.

Bahrain condemns attack

A statement from Bahrain's Foreign Ministry said a "number of Iranian drones" targeted the country. It called the attack "a flagrant threat to the security of citizens and residents." There were no immediate reports of damage.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard earlier on Saturday issued a statement carried by the state-run IRNA news agency saying it had targeted several locations "of the US terrorist army in the region." It did not name what areas were targeted.

Ship comes under attack

The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said that a tanker was attacked on Saturday in the strait, with the crew safe and no environmental damage reported.

No one immediately claimed the strike, but suspicion fell on Iran.

Just after that report, the Joint Maritime Information Center, overseen by the US. Navy, said the route near Oman's shore is expanding to allow for inbound and outbound traffic.

Maritime threat remains high

The Joint Maritime Information Center warned that the threat to ships was "substantial," adding that "mariners are advised of the existence of mines and should expect a naval presence as clearance operations continue." The International Maritime Organisation on Friday halted a new effort to evacuate ships said it won't resume until there are guarantees that the other ships won't be attacked. It said about 115 ships have been able to move out of the strait in recent days. *AP*

Hezbollah supporters block the old airport road in the southern suburbs of Beirut, with burning tires to protest against the trilateral agreement that was signed between the US, Israel and Lebanon | AFP

Israel strikes Lebanon, says it targeted militants

JERUSALEM: Israel said it carried out an airstrike in southern Lebanon on Saturday, targeting suspected militants in the Nabatieh area, the first such attack since Israel, Lebanon and the United States signed a framework agreement aimed at paving the way for a broader peace deal. The Israeli military said the strike targeted "suspected terrorists" who posed a threat to its troops, adding the results were still being assessed. The US-brokered agreement, signed on Friday after five rounds of talks, is intended to lay the groundwork for lasting peace and security between Israel and Lebanon.

Hezbollah rejects US-Israel-Lebanon framework, terms it 'null and void'

BEIRUT

HEZBOLLAH leader Naim Qassem condemned the US-Israel-Lebanon framework agreement on Saturday, accusing the government of surrendering Lebanese sovereignty and declaring the agreement null and void. The agreement — which includes a pilot effort in which Lebanese soldiers take control of two areas currently occupied by Israel, as well as a process aimed at disarming Hezbollah — was signed in Washington on Friday after five rounds of talks.

"The framework agreement in Washington is humiliating, shameful, and a surrender of sovereignty. This agreement is null and void, and the provisions of the Iranian-American memorandum of understanding must be implemented," Qassem said, referring to the deal to end the broader West Asia war, which provides for a ceasefire in Lebanon.

Lebanon was drawn into the regional war on March 2 when Tehran-backed Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel after the killing of Iran's supreme leader in US-Israeli strikes. Israel responded with airstrikes and invaded southern Lebanon, where its forces occupy territory and continue demolishing homes.

Qassem accused Lebanese authorities of committing a "grave blunder" that "legitimises the continuation of the occupation" and could even lead to the annexation of the territory. Hezbollah supporters took to the streets of Beirut on Friday night to protest the framework. In western Beirut's Hamra street, 48-year-old Ahmad Shamas told AFP on Saturday that "the agreement reached is a humiliating and shameful one". *AFP*

AI SECURITY CONCERNS

Anthropic gets partial approval to let a few US firms access Mythos 5

SAN FRANCISCO

ANTHROPIC said on Friday it had received authorisation from the US government to allow a small group of American cybersecurity firms to access its powerful AI model Mythos 5.

Access to Mythos 5 had been blocked by US authorities due to concerns about national security. Anthropic will continue discussions with the Trump administration to "expand access to Mythos 5 and make Fable 5 available again" to the general public, a company spokesperson said.

The government abruptly forced Anthropic to cut off access to its two cutting-edge artificial intelligence models on June 12 after discovering vulnerabilities in the safeguards put in place to prevent misuse of the tool.

The strong action against Anthropic has drawn accusations of government overreach. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick said in a letter to the company, cited by Politico and Reuters, that "Anthropic has worked with the US government to address risks associated with the Covered Models."

"These efforts have yielded significant progress," he said.

Commerce department spokesperson Benno Kass said "we have worked diligently to ensure America remains the global leader in AI while safeguarding our security."

Anthropic angered President Donald Trump's team in an earlier clash by refusing to allow its technology to be used for mass surveillance and autonomous weapons, leading the Pentagon to cancel its contracts with the company. Anthropic's main rival OpenAI launched its new model earlier Friday, GPT-5.6, with restricted access and validated on a client-by-client basis by the government. OpenAI chief Sam Altman said in a post on X "this isn't quite the process that we think is optimal."

"I believe the government shares most of our goals, and that they are overall doing a good job in a very difficult situation," he said.

Under pressure over the novelty of their capabilities, Trump earlier this month signed an executive order setting up a voluntary federal review of national security risks in advanced AI models before their release. The White House has said little about enforcing its executive order or which models would be subject to review. *AFP*

Rescue workers search through the rubble three days after earthquakes struck Catia La Mar, Venezuela | AP

Time running out as Venezuela toll tops 1,400, with 68K missing

LA GUAIRA

TENSIONS flared on Saturday as desperation grew among anguished residents of Venezuela's La Guaira state, where rescuers and civilians searched for survivors after twin earthquakes killed 1,430 people and left at least 68,900 missing.

Three days after the one-two punch of 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes devastated the South American nation, families continued searching for loved ones as authorities and international rescue teams raced against time to find survivors.

Venezuelans looking for loved ones and neighbors used shovels, heavy equipment, ropes and bare hands atop mounds of toppled concrete throughout La Guaira, one of the country's hardest-hit states.

Most of those digging were civilians who took search efforts into their own hands, and tensions peaked over inadequate response from the Venezuelan government, whose soldiers, firefighters, police and military cadets were evidently underprepared to respond to the tragedy.

Frustration was only amplified by state efforts to project the image of a robust state response.

"There's a pile of bodies over there from last night. Newborn babies. Look what time it is, and they still haven't come to recover them.

At 8pm there were people alive down there, and they haven't bothered to rescue them. We've located several bodies, and they haven't helped us recover them either," said Mileidy Romero, who was among those searching the rubble in the seaside town of Caraballeada. "What are they waiting for?"

Aid agencies consider the first 48 to 72 hours as crucial for retrieving people alive, though that can be extended if they have access to food and water.

However, a growing number of international rescue teams were joining the effort to save lives nearly 72 hours after the quake. Acting President Delcy Rodríguez said on state television Saturday that more than 14,000 members of the military and police are patrolling the area, where access is now blocked and special permits are required to enter. More international rescue teams arrived in Venezuela on Saturday.

Simon Bolivar International Airport near Caracas was badly damaged in the quake. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

24 HELD AFTER RALLY AGAINST PREZ PRABOWO

Police arrested 24 protesters after a rally against President Prabowo Subianto's policies, a rights group said Saturday. Around 100 people demonstrated against a fuel price hike and the government's free meals scheme. Some hurled rocks and set rubbish ablaze before officers intervened. The detainees were questioned overnight and released without charge. Similar protests have erupted nationwide this month over fuel price hikes and the flagship meals programme, prompting demonstrations in several cities.

Chinese, Russian aircraft violate S Korea airspace

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea said it had sent up fighter jets as a precaution after more than 10 Chinese and Russian military aircraft entered its air defence zone on Saturday. The Joint Chiefs of Staff in Seoul said the Chinese and Russian aircraft had entered and then left the Korea Air Defence Identification Zone (KADIZ) over the East Sea and the South Sea.

"South Korea's military detected the Chinese and Russian aircraft before they entered the zone and deployed Air Force fighter jets to prepare for any contingency," it said in a statement, without giving more details. The Chinese and Russian aircraft did not violate South Korean airspace, it said.

An air defence identification zone is not sovereign airspace but a buffer area where countries identify approaching aircraft for security purposes. Military aircraft are generally expected to notify the relevant country before entering its air defence zone, although such notification is not legally required. Beijing's defence ministry said in a statement that the Chinese and Russian air forces conducted a "strategic air patrol" over the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea and the western Pacific Ocean, "demonstrating their determination and capability to jointly uphold regional peace and stability".

The brief statement did not specifically mention South Korea or its air defence zone.

Russia did not immediately comment on the incident. South Korea and Japan reacted furiously when nine Chinese and Russian military aircraft entered the KADIZ in December 2025, the previous such incident. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Utah declares emergency, curbs fireworks

SALT LAKE CITY: Utah declared a state of emergency and restricted fireworks ahead of July Fourth celebrations as the state's largest wildfire expanded across drought-hit forests. The Cottonwood Fire has burned more than 112 square miles, forcing evacuations and damaging a ski resort. Authorities warned of extreme fire conditions, while the National Weather Service issued a rare "Particularly Dangerous Situation" alert. Strong winds grounded aerial firefighting efforts as crews battled multiple large wildfires across the state.

Central African Republic hit by cholera outbreak

BANGUI

THE Central African Republic has declared a cholera outbreak after confirming 24 deaths and 197 cases near the capital Bangui, according to the health minister. "The Ministry of Health... has today, June 26, 2026, confirmed a cholera outbreak in the health districts of Bimbo and Mbaiki", southwest of Bangui, said Pierre Somse late Friday. Measures to limit the spread have already been put in place in affected areas, and more are being deployed in nearby towns, he added.

Cholera spreads through contaminated food or water, causing severe diarrhoea and dehydration. While it has been largely eliminated in wealthier countries, it remains a risk in poorer regions with limited access to clean water. Authorities are investigating the source of the outbreak, the fifth recorded in the country. In the previous outbreak in 2016, more than 500 people were infected and 23 died.

"The government remains fully mobilised to contain this outbreak," the minister said, urging people to follow health advice and preventive measures. The Central African Republic is also on alert over a deadly Ebola outbreak in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. *AFP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mrs. NIGAR SULTANA,** W/o. Mr. Syed Azeemuddin, Residing at No.12, 8th Cross, Dinnur, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032, have lost the last original Registered sale Deed dated: 21/06/2002, document No. 1147/2002-03, Book-1, Stored in CD No. GNSR7, before the Sub registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore, executed by Mrs. Jahanara Begum, W/o Mr. Basheer Ahmed Maniyar, infavour of Mr. Syed Afroz Pasha, S/o. Mr. Syed Azeez Pasha, in respect of the Property bearing Site No. 16, Chunchappa Block, Corporation Davisson No. 82, Bangalore in Layout formed in Sy No. 33/1, of Matadahalli, (Presently bearing Municipal No. 25, 7th Cross, Kousar Nagar, Ward No.98, Bangalore), measuring East to West: 18 feet and North to South: 28 feet, totally measuring 504 Sq.ft., together with the building 6 Squares RCC Roofed building Ground floor and First floor, with mosaic flooring, Honne and Mathi wood, with water & Electricity, standing thereon in as is where is condition and being bounded on the; East by: Private property, West by: Private property, North by: Private property, South by: Road, if any person finds the same may deliver to the undersigned within sevendays.

Pradeep Kumar.K, Advocate,
Vishnu Maya Associates,
Sree Guru Enclave, Flat No. 3,
Krishnappa Layout, RMV 2nd Stage,
Bangalore-560094. Mob. 7899894890
Gmail : P7899894890@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that my client intends to purchase the property mentioned hereunder from its Owner **Sri. Nagaraju. K** s/o Late.Krishnappa resident of Mylappanahalli Village, Shivakote Post, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru – 560 089. If any member/s of the general public has/ have any claims over the said property. It is hereby called upon to approach the undersigned with all the relevant documents in support of such claims within 15 days from the date of this notice and no claims would be entertained after 15 days.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural dry land property bearing No.2/6 measuring 0-20.6 guntas, situated at Lingarajapura Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru North Taluk, which is bounded on :

East by : Property in Sy.No.3
West by : Property in Sy.No.2/5 belonging to Hanumanthe Gowda,
North by : Road
South by : Property in Sy.No.1/1 belonging to Munilakshmamma.

B.S. RADHANANDAN Advocate
No.239/1, Nagashri, IV Main,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore -560 018.
Phone : 26500612 Mobile : 9845009885

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our Client **Mrs. FARZANA DURRANI,** is intending to Jointly Develop the property as mentioned in the Schedule hereunder along with its Developer Mr. SIRAJ AHMED.

If anybody having any objections, claim, interest, dispute for the above joint development, he/she may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/details of disputes within Seven (7) days from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed with the Joint Development project with the above Developers as if there are no third party claims/ objections/ disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/ objections/ disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing new municipal No.13, (Old No. 13 and 13/1), vide bearing BBMP PID No 3534275548, situated at 4th Main, Dinnur, Bengaluru-560032 presently under the jurisdiction of Bangalore North City Corporation, WARD No.33 measuring East to West-55 feet and North to South- 34 Feet, totally measuring 1870 Sq. Feet (121.3 Sq. Mtrs) and bounded on the

East By : Road.
West By : Site No. 38;
North By : Private Property;
South By : 4th Main Road.

Adv. N. Praveen Kumar,
#12, Block I, Diamond District Apartments,
Old Airport Road, Kodihalli, Bangalore - 560008.
Ph No. 9964659678.
Praveen91671@gmail.com.

REQUIRED

INDUSTRIAL SHED for rent in or around Peenya with 30 hp power & preferably with crane facility measuring 5000 to 7000 sq ft for immediate occupation.

Kindly contact Zoher on
94480 51537

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that my client intends to purchase the property mentioned hereunder from its Owner Sri. **Hanumathe Gowda.K** S/o Late. Krishnappa resident of Mylappanahalli Village, Shivakote Post, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru – 560 089. If any member/s of the general public has/ have any claims over the said property. It is hereby called upon to approach the undersigned with all the relevant documents in support of such claims within 15 days from the date of this notice and no claims would be entertained after 15 days.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural dry land property bearing No.2/5 measuring 0-20.5 guntas, situated at Lingarajapura Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru North Taluk, which is bounded on :

East by : Property in Sy.No.2/6 belonging to Nagaraju.K
West by : Property in Sy.No.2/4 belonging to Narasimhaiah
North by : Road
South by : Property in Sy.No.1/1 belonging to Munilakshmamma.

B.S. RADHANANDAN Advocate
No.239/1, Nagashri, IV Main,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore -560 018.
Phone : 26500612 Mobile : 9845009885

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients intends to purchase the Schedule mentioned Property from the Vendor viz., **Shri. Naveen J.,** S/o. Shri. S.V. Jagadish and **Smt. Padma,** residing at No.75, Kanakapura Main Road, 2nd Cross, Near Govt. School, Doddakallasandra, Bengaluru-560 062, who is acquired through Registered Gift Deed bearing Doc. No.JPN-1-08385-2021-22 dated 3-2-2022 and he is now the present owner. The Public are hereby given Notice that any person/s claiming any share, right, title or interest of any nature or having any lien, charge or enforceable right in respect of the Schedule Property or anybody having objection to the Sale Transaction may put forth their claims in writing with the undersigned together with supporting documents **within 10 days** from this date, failing which it shall be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist against the said person/s and that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Southern side of Residential **Property bearing No. 1820/83/3/3,** new e-PID No.6371518408, **Old Site No.3,** earlier Katha No.82/3, presently GBA Ward No. 197-Vasanthapura, situated at **Doddakallasandra, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and** now comes under GBA-Bengaluru South City Corporation, measuring **East to West:35 feet and North to South:20 feet, totally measuring 700 Sq. Feet,** comprising of Ground and First Floor building and bounded on the **East by:** Site No.2, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Remaining Property of Site No.3 and **South by:** Property belongs to Channaveeregowda.

S.R. Harish Kumar,
Sujay Kumar H.S. Advocates,
Unit No.F-3, 1st Floor, S.K.L. Complex, No.197, (old No.18), R.T. Street (Corner) and facing B.V.K. Iyengar Road, Bengaluru-560 053.
Mob: 9845878405, 9880231375.

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

ATTIBELE BRANCH
No.31 Ground Floor, Hotel Victory Grand Complex, Near Jigala Cross, Sarjapur Road,
Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka-562107.
Phone: 8928908812, Email: ubin0908819@unionbankofindia.bank.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for 15 days Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of **Union Bank of India,** the secured Creditor will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

Name and address of the Secured Creditor : Union Bank of India, Attibele Branch No.31, Ground Floor, Hotel Victory Grand Complex, Near Jigala Cross, Sarjapur Road, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka-562107.

Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: (1) Mr. Chandrappa N S/o Narayanappa, **(2) Mrs. Sumalatha M** W/o Mr. Chandrappa, **Both are residing at:** Flat No.B-301, 3rd Floor, Tower 7, Janaadhar Subha Apartments Medihalli, Mayasandra, Attibele, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-562107.

Amount due: Rs.2,64,423.37/- (Rupees Two Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Four Hundred And Twenty Three And Thirty Seven Paise Only) as **31.05.2026** plus interest/ cost and expenses thereon.

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold:

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of residentially converted lands totally measuring about 11 acres 18 guntas including Kharab Land in Survey Nos. 39/1,39/2,40/3 and 42/1 all situated at M.Medehalli, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on the : East by: Land in Sy No 43, West by: Road,North by: Mayasandra Gadi, South by: Land in Sy No 41.

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY : The Undivided Share, right, title, interest and claim in the Schedule 'A 'Property mentioned above works out to 195 Sq Ft.

SCHEDULE C PROPERTY : Residential Apartment bearing No B-301, Khatha No 645, Assessment No.T-7-B-301, Third Floor of Tower 7, in residential Apartment known as "JANAADHAR SHUBHA' constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property measuring 400 Sq Ft of super built-up area together with proportionate share in the common areas and other areas of common use situated at M Medahalli Mayasandra Grama Panchayat, Anekal Block, Bangalore District and bounded on the: East by: Open Space, West by: A-302, North by: Open Space & stair case, South by: T-006.

Reserve Price : Rs. 10,20,000/-
(Rupees Ten Lakh and Twenty Thousand Only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs.1,02,000/-
(Rupees One Lakhs Two Thousand Only)
Date and time of E-Auction:
14.07.2026 Tuesday Between 12.00 PM to 05:00PM
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last date for submission of EMD :
EMD shall be deposited and Linked/Map the EMD amount with the Property ID before End Time of Auction.
It is advisable to deposit and Link / Map the EMD amount with the property ID well in advance to avoid any technical glitch.
E-auction website: https://baanknet.com

Bidders are advised to go through the website: **https://baanknet.com and https://www.unionbankofindia.bank.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx** for detailed terms and conditions of Auction Sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the E-Auction sale proceedings. To the best information and knowledge of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property. The interested bidder may contact the Branch Manager Cont No.: **8928908812** and Mail ID: **ubin0908819@unionbankofindia.bank.in** ascertaining the details of auction and inspection of property.

Date: 25.06.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
THE ALL-NEW APP
SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP
STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS
GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

₹1.64L cr worth of investment project approved across 12 semiconductor manufacturing projects under the Indian Semiconductor Mission (ISM), said Union Ministry of Electronics & IT on Saturday.

Will gold come to dollar's rescue?

Speculation rife in markets that US administration will undertake revaluation exercise

SUNITHA NATTI

GOLD prices are witnessing a gravity-defying correction, falling up to $3,900 per ounce last week from January's peak of $5,000. Amid inflationary fears, interest rate hikes and rising global debt levels, there is intense speculation that the US, with the world's largest bullion reserves at its disposal, may undertake a gold revaluation exercise on July 4, when it celebrates the 250th Independence anniversary.

The trigger for this was US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's speech last week at the America 250 Gala Dinner, which social media conveniently read as a countdown for a grand financial reboot. Bessent, as usual, beat the band about tariffs, economic sanctions, supply chain controls and so on. But it is his phrases such as "This scale of milestone demands more than just ceremony" that is generating the buzz.

There's no official word and it is quiet likely that it may remain just that — a mere proposal. But such a move, coming after five long decades, will help retain the dollar dominance, which is increasingly at a risk from competing currencies.

Currently, the US Treasury values its 8,133 metric tonnes of gold at a statutory price of $42.22 per ounce, and was set in 1973 but never subsequently updated. At the current market price of about $4,000, it could be valued anywhere between $750 billion and $1 trillion as against the current official valuation that stands at a jaw-dropping $11 billion.

Losing sheen
The US Treasury values its 8,133 metric tonnes of gold at a statutory price of $42.22 per ounce
At the current market price of about $4,000, it could be valued anywhere between $750 billion and $1 trillion
In the current year, the gold prices have sharply decline from historic peak of $5,000 per ounce
The central banks' aggressive gold buying last year only points out the significance of the yellow metal as a reserve asset
Comex's gold futures continue to have massive open positions in ultra-high priced call options at $10,000, $15,000 and $20,000 per ounce
Beijing also raised margin requirements for metals trading to weed out speculators and contain volatility
Moreover, as per the World Gold Council's latest report, central bank gold holdings are further expected to increase in the next 12 months

In other words, the world's largest economy is staring at one of the largest unrealised balance sheet discrepancies in the history of sovereign finance. Interestingly, the US administration under President Donald Trump has been wheeling out the revaluation proposal from time to time. In fact, one of the first executive orders Trump issued soon after taking charge in January, 2025 was to establish a sovereign wealth fund, which by proxy involves monetizing federal assets including gold besides others. Days later, Bessent talked it up though he immediately walked back clarifying that the Treasury wasn't pursuing a plan to revalue gold at the moment.

He did not catergorically rule it out either, and it's the nuance between 'not now' and 'never' that's stirring up the chatter. Though spot gold prices corrected to $4,000, Comex's gold futures continue to have massive open positions in ultra-high priced call options at $10,000, $15,000 and $20,000 per ounce, further fuelling belief that the market knows something that others don't.

Other reasons that the gold revaluation exercise found itself back in chat room discussions are independent developments in Asia, particularly China. For instance, China's Shanghai Gold Exchange is about to launch an offshore hub in Hong Kong next month, to enable its own Eastern settlement network backed by physical gold delivery. Separately, Beijing also raised margin requirements for metals trading to weed out speculators and contain volatility.

Then there's BRICS' much-anticipated gold-backed currency to facilitate cross-border transactions among member nations with the core idea to reduce dollar dominance. This will be a death blow for the US, which is fighting hard to sustain dollar supremacy. As per Bessent's own admission, the economic sanctions on Russia, military interventions on Venezuela and the latest Iran war were all to ensure that dollar retains its reserve currency status unchallenged.

Lastly, the central banks' aggressive gold buying last year only points out the significance of the yellow metal as a reserve asset. Moreover, as per the World Gold Council's latest report, central bank gold holdings are further expected to increase in the next 12 months. Above all, countries are fully cognizant of the US' tactics weaponizing the dollar and hence are seeking alternative multi-polar financial structures challenging the greenback's monopoly.

All these point to one thing: the dollar faces its most significant challenge since the Bretton Woods Agreement, and needs a strategic overhaul to remain relevant. Among others, the dollar dominance rests heavily on the unparalleled demand for US Treasuries. But that interest is eroding with foreign investors, including long-standing buyers from Japan to Europe liquidating in hordes at a time when the US government's debt is bulging.

VIEWPOINT

LONG-TERM CHALLENGES FROM GULF CRISIS REMAIN

INDRANIL PAN

THERE has been a dramatic shift in the global risk environment. The West Asia crisis has reportedly reached a resolution, which created room for a sharp drop in oil prices – the biggest challenger to the economic well-being of net oil importers like India. Higher oil prices have large ramifications for India: fiscal position is stretched as higher fertilizer and LPG prices need to be absorbed by the government to protect the consumer from the impact, current account balance swells and can lead to currency depreciation, the risk of inflation rises due to currency depreciation and the pass-through from manufacturers to the end users. Finally, there is a risk for monetary policy to tighten, and this can lead to a relatively large economic growth sacrifice when uncertainty remains high.

In the June policy, the RBI had, after considering a higher price of oil for its forecasting models, slashed the GDP growth forecast for FY27 to 6.6% from 6.9% earlier. On the other hand, the inflation forecast was raised from 4.6% to 5.1%, therefore also raising the odds for a rate hike by the RBI. That was on the June 8, when Brent crude price was at $95/bbl, but now it has dropped to $72/bbl. Inflation has already shown some evidence of undershooting RBI's own expectations for Q1FY27. Though risks of a poor monsoon due to El Nino remain, food stocks at the FCI remain robust to tackle inflation pressures that could arise due to food shortages.

The other measures announced at the time of the policy are expected to boost the FX resources of the economy via FCNR (B) and ECB inflows that will be directly swapped with the RBI. FPI inflows are also expected to improve, and, given that withholding taxes for debt investments are done away with, it probably paves the way for India being included in the Bloomberg Bond Index. We know soon but some passive flows into India through the debt route may have already be trickling in.

The recent measures, especially the FCNR (B) support, raise some questions. This is especially relevant in an atmosphere where global geopolitical risks are likely to continue to remain elevated, thereby impacting capital flows on a structural basis. Further, interest rates have moved higher on the back of fiscal concerns in developed economies, a critical source of funds for EM economies. With interest rates high in the US, it would be difficult for dollars to move around the world searching for returns. The nominal interest rate gap between India and the US 10-year bond is around 250 bps, not enough to account for the exchange rate risk in India.

Even as the West Asia crisis has cooled off, the region is expected to exhibit continued political volatility, thereby carrying the risk of oil prices moving higher. The critical issue during the peak of the West Asia crisis was not only the price of oil, but the supplies.

Even as the West Asia crisis has cooled off, the region is expected to exhibit continued political volatility, thereby carrying the risk of oil prices moving higher. The critical issue during the peak of the West Asia crisis was not only the price of oil, but the supplies. True, India has advanced well in building up alternative energy capabilities, and there is also a push towards ethanol blending to reduce the reliance on fossil fuel. But there is no way to eliminate fossil fuel use entirely, implying there remains an urgent need to build up India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves. Currently, India's strategic reserves as per the Ministry of Petroleum data, including that of state-run oil companies are at around 75 days. News reports indicate that a deal was recently struck with Abu Dhabi to boost its crude holdings in India's strategic reserves, a positive development.

A much larger perspective to deal with is how to strengthen the domestic economy, which will in turn help with investment flows from abroad. India has possibly missed the AI development bus and is expected to remain a consumer of the AI developments. As there can be large technological disruptions, it is becoming evident that the traditional IT sector has faced strains on revenue-generating capabilities and is facing job losses. Global Capacity Centres are an option and have been a critical contributor to services sector net receipts and hence all efforts are needed to support this sector.

Even as the Indian economy is touted as the fastest growing economy in the world, the paradox that needs some introspection is: why are foreign investments moving away?

First, as indicated above, investment flows are being diverted towards regions that have a focus on AI development. The other critical problem for India is that it is stuck in a "middle income trap", with a per-capita income lower than peer rated economies. This implies that along with a gradually declining demographic dividend, and with the benefits of higher GDP growth not percolating down to the lower segments of the population, there could be some questions about the forward-looking consumption prospects of the economy. Thus, to sustain stronger domestic demand, India must invest in its productivity, increase employment and target more equitable distribution of incomes. These are absolute essential to regain investor confidence and attract forex flows into the economy.

(The author is Chief Economist at YES Bank. Views are personal)

Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO to step down at end of term

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

KOTAK Mahindra Bank on Saturday said its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Ashok Vaswani, has decided not to seek reappointment after the completion of his current term on December 31, 2026, citing personal reasons.

In a regulatory filing to the stock exchanges, the bank said Vaswani informed its board of his decision. The board has accepted his decision and initiated the process to appoint a new Managing Director and CEO. The succession process will be completed within the applicable regulatory timelines, the bank said.

Vaswani, who took over as the head of Kotak Mahindra Bank in January 2024, was appointed for a three-year term ending December 31. His appointment marked the first time the bank was led by an external professional CEO following founder Uday Kotak stepping down in 2023.

The bank did not disclose any further details on the reasons behind Vaswani's decision or identify potential successors. It said the board has already begun the search process and will complete the appointment in accordance with regulatory requirements.

STELLAR CAREER

1. Ashok Vaswani to resign from December 31, citing personal reasons
2. He took over as CEO in 2024 for three-year term
3. A banker for 35 years, Vaswani worked at Citigroup, Barclays Bank

A veteran banker with more than 35 years of experience, Vaswani built his career at Citigroup before moving to Barclays, where he served as CEO of Barclays Bank UK and later headed the group's Global Consumer, Private, Corporate and Payments businesses as a member of the Group Executive Committee. He is widely credited with leading Barclays' transition from legacy banking systems to a digitally driven operating model through a major overhaul of its technology architecture and customer platforms.

Before joining Kotak Mahindra Bank, Vaswani was President of Pagaya Technologies, a US-Israeli AI-driven fintech company, where he focused on scaling the business through institutional partnerships and technology integration.

Earlier, he also served as CEO of Citigroup Asia Pacific and was a member of the bank's Global Operating and Management Committees.

Under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Ashok Vaswani, Kotak Mahindra Bank reported a standalone net profit of Rs 14,008 crore for the full FYY 2025-26, while consolidated net profit stood at ₹19,288 crore. For the March quarter, the bank posted a consolidated net profit of ₹5,423 crore. The lender's core net interest income (NII) rose 8.1% year-on-year to ₹7,876 crore, while total income increased 4.8% to ₹14,175 crore.

Interest expenses edged up 0.9% to ₹6,299 crore, while other income declined 2.1% to ₹3,116 crore.

EXPRESS READ

ICAI inaugurates AI Innovation Summit

NEW DELHI: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) inaugurated its flagship AI Innovation Summit (AIS) 2026 here on Saturday. The two-day summit aims to lead global innovation, leverage emerging technologies and equip professionals with the emerging skills required in the evolving digital landscape. The theme is "Transforming Accounting, Audit, Tax, and Governance", will showcase how AI is revolutionizing financial ecosystems, enabling smarter decision-making.

Take advantage of India-UK CETA, says Goyal

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

COMMERCE and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday urged Indian companies to deepen engagement with their UK counterparts to translate opportunities under the India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) into sustained business growth. The India-UK trade deal will come into effect from July 15.

Addressing the India-UK: Partners in Progress Business Plenary in London, Goyal said the recently concluded trade pact offers significant opportunities to strengthen bilateral trade, investment, technology partnerships and innovation.

The plenary brought together leading industry representatives from both countries, who described the CETA as a transformative framework for boosting long-term investments, resilient supply chains and deeper economic cooperation between India and the United Kingdom.

The discussions focused on effective implementation of the agreement, with industry representatives calling for greater awareness of CETA among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), simplification of regulatory procedures and certification requirements, stronger industry-to-industry partnerships and enhanced talent mobility to help businesses fully utilise the benefits of the pact. He also launched four knowledge reports to help businesses navigate opportunities under the agreement.

Industry representatives also presented recommendations from sector-specific roundtables covering healthcare, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, science and technology, services and consumer goods, highlighting opportunities for greater collaboration through innovation, investment and stronger business partnerships.

Business & Beyond

Tamil Nadu's companies in 2025 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500

Burgundy Private, Axis Bank's Private Banking Business, and Hurun India, released the 2025 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500, with the 500 companies in the list collectively valued at $3.4 trillion, reflecting a corporate landscape marked by expanding scale and a widening footprint beyond traditional growth centres. Tamil Nadu continues to strengthen its position within this universe, with companies from the state adding nearly INR 306 crore in value every single day over the past five years, anchored by a diverse base spanning financial services, manufacturing, and healthcare. Now in its fifth edition, the 2025 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 ranks India headquartered companies by market capitalization.

UCO Bank hosts FEDAI seminar in Kolkata

UCO Bank hosted a FEDAI seminar at its Executive Training Centre, Kolkata, marking the revival of the FEDAI Kolkata Chapter after a long hiatus. The seminar was attended by representatives from 45 banks. Sudhanshu Prasad, Regional Director, RBI, highlighted various RBI initiatives to promote international trade and support the internationalisation of the Indian Rupee.

Suzlon crosses 1 GW partnership with Tata Power after EPC order

Advancing its Suzlon 2.0 vision through its DevCo-led growth strategy, Suzlon has secured Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited's new EPC contract for a 400 MW wind energy project. Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) is one of India's leading renewable energy companies and a subsidiary of The Tata Power Company Limited. This repeat order, awarded in less than 12 months, brings the cumulative partnership across Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh to over 1 GW. With this order, Suzlon's orderbook in Andhra Pradesh now stands close to 1 GW, marking a key milestone in one of India's leading wind markets.

Amber Group begins work at Greater Noida facility

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AMBER Enterprises India on Saturday commenced construction of its proposed ₹6,785 crore electronics manufacturing facilities at the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority in UP, marking the first industrial project to break ground in the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) being developed in the region.

Amber said the investment, among the largest in India's electronics component manufacturing sector, aims to strengthen domestic production of critical electronic components, boost localisation and reduce import dependence while supporting the Centre's Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat initiatives.

As part of the project, Ascent-K Circuit will establish a manufacturing facility in Sector 10 to produce High-Density Interconnect (HDI) printed circuit boards, flexible printed circuit boards (FPCBs) and semiconductor substrates, which are used in consumer electronics, mobility, industrial automation and telecommunications.

Separately, Amber will develop a 100-acre manufacturing facility in Sector 8 to manufacture room air conditioners, copper clad laminates (CCL) and other critical components, strengthening backward integration.

Four B'luru firms likely to invest ₹29,000 cr in UP

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

FOUR Bengaluru-headquartered real estate and commercial infrastructure companies have announced investment commitments worth ₹29,000 crore in Uttar Pradesh, marking one of the biggest outcomes of the Global Growth Dialogue 2026 held in Bengaluru.

The investment commitments, announced in the presence of CM Yogi Adityanath, are expected to boost commercial real estate and business infrastructure in Noida and Lucknow. The proposed investments are ₹15,000 crore by Prestige Group, ₹5,000 crore by Embassy Group, ₹5,000 crore by Raheja Mindspace REIT, and ₹4,000 crore by Sattva Developers.

FIFA

GOAL American RUSH!

CANADA: Crepeau (16); Johnston (2), de Fougerolles (4), Cornelius (13), Laryea (22); Buchanan (17), Eustaquio (7), N Saliba (25), Ahmed (20); David (10), Larin (9)

SOUTH AFRICA: Williams (1); Matuludi (2), Okon (21), Mbokazi (14), Modiba (6); Sithole (13), Mbatha (5), Maseko (12); Mofokeng (10), Makgopa (17), Oppollis (7).

CANADA & SA MEET IN UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY

The Round of 32 stage kicks off with co-hosts taking on Bafana Bafana — both first-timers at knockouts — at Los Angeles. A look...

SET FOR HISTORIC OUTING

Canada are part of the knockout round for the first time in history. Despite missing out on a chance to play this upcoming tie on home soil, Jonathan David, who scored a hat-trick vs Qatar, will be hoping to make a difference alongside Promise David, who has been one of the driving forces.

SA READY FOR BIG TEST

After a disastrous start, South Africa completed a remarkable turnaround by snatching a 1-0 win against South Korea to reach this stage, their first after falling at the first hurdle in three previous trips to the WC. Thapelo Maseko was the hero of the match against Korea and he'll be intent on stepping up yet again.

Live Action

Round of 32:
SA vs Canada @ Los Angeles Stadium | 12:30 AM*
*IST Monday

LIVE on Unite8 Sports and Zee5

ERUPTING IN 'VOLCANIC' JOY

As island nation off West African coast makes history by entering Rd of 32, **Swaroop Swaminathan** tries to capture the emotions of players & their loved ones after 0-0 draw against Saudi Arabia

WHEN Cape Verde's greatest songs are written, there will be more than a few dedicated to the night when their football team provided joy for millions across the globe. Forget the fact that the small archipelago of islands off the west coast of Africa have a little over five lakh inhabitants. Millions of football fans will happily wear the colours of their national team in the stands from now till eternity.

Even watching from afar, over 15,000 kms to be precise, it was impossible not to fall in love with the country's football team and its people. Over the last two weeks, they have reminded the world why sport mattered, and will continue to matter, to a lot of people. They used a heaving Houston Stadium on Friday as the canvas to write not only one of the greatest World Cup stories but also one of the greatest sporting stories of all time.

That sentence has already been written many times over the last two weeks, but that shouldn't be a reason to stop writing it because it's still ludicrous to even think about it. A population of just over 5,00,000, a small group of islands, most of them semi-professionals... even the idea of them at the World Cup beggared belief. On Friday night, this team wrote another epic as they advanced to the knockout stages to face Lionel Messi and Argentina. Come on.

****

As soon as the whistle cut through the Houston night sky, the celebrations had already begun in the stands. Ana Candida Evora, Vozinha's mother, was dancing with others. Strangers were hugging each other as the electronic scoreboard in the stadium read out: Cape Verde 0-0 Saudi Arabia. On the field, though, the celebrations were paused. The players huddled around a few mobile phones as they were tracking the second-by-second updates of the other match in the group between Uruguay and Spain. The latter were leading 1-0; as long as it stayed that way, Cape Verde would go through.

As the play went deep into injury time in Guadalajara, some 1400 kms in a neighbouring country, some of the players couldn't bear to watch it anymore. The braver players were transfixed, like in a trance. At long last, after what seemed to be an age, news had filtered through to the players that Spain had won 1-0. Uruguay were out. Cape Verde would be advancing to the Round of 32.

At that exact point in time, the smiles on the players' faces returned. They were all grinning from ear to ear; some had taken off, not knowing what to do in that moment of ecstasy. Fifty-one years after independence, this was undoubtedly their biggest sporting moment to date.

When they had qualified to the World Cup, the cynics had said it was only because of the expanded 48-team event (spoiler: it wasn't; they topped a group containing Cameroon). At the World Cup, they have become one of the stories of the whole thing.

****

Somewhere in that huddle was Roberto 'Pico' Lopes, an Irish ex-banker of Cape Verdean descent who gave up a career because Shamrock Rovers offered him a life in football. Lost in the melee was Vozinha, the 40-year-old goalkeeper who turned professional at 25. Ryan Mendes perhaps had a phone with him, trying to capture these moments for posterity.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

SUNDAY SPECIAL

France's Ousmane Dembele (R) celebrates with Kylian Mbappe | AP

Dembele hat-trick in France victory

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

ON Friday afternoon, the football world wanted to watch a match headlined as one between Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland. What it got instead was the domination by the Ballon d'Or holder, Ousmane Dembele. He was an utter joy to watch as he scored a first-half hat-trick to send a strong warning to the other contenders: we are France and we know we are just too good. Or something to that extent. By the time the final whistle cut through the air at Foxborough in Boston, Les Blues had run out 4-1 winners. The margin perhaps would have been greater if they had polished off all the chances they had created (two big chances missed; nine shots on target).

A hour before the match, as soon as news started filtering that Haaland wouldn't start, the match immediately lost some sheen. When the team sheets landed, it was evidently clear that the sides were prioritising two different things. France, the favourites to win the crown for the third time in their history, were going for continuity as they had named a strong XI. Norway, meanwhile, had made 10 changes as they had already secured a place in the knockouts. What would have been pleasing to the French is the way Dembele twice combined with Mbappe, the goal-scorer turned creator. Dembele, who still polarises fans in his country, was unerring with his finishes after cutting in from the right-hand side as the French ran riot in a very open start to the game. **Friday's results:** Senegal 5 (Diarra 4', I Sarr 56', P Gueye 59', 71', I Ndiaye 82') **bt** Iraq 0; Norway 1 (Aasgaard 21') **lost to** France 4 (Dembele 7', 20', 32', Doue 90+4'). Uruguay 0 **lost to** Spain 1 (Baena 42'); Cape Verde 0 **drew with** Saudi Arabia 0. New Zealand 1 (Just 84') **lost to** Belgium 5 (Trossard 28', 50', De Bruyne 66', Lukaku 86', Saelemaekers 90+4'); Egypt 1 (Saber 5') **drew with** Iran 1 (Rezaeian 14')

QUICK PASSES

Salah injury not big, says coach

SEATTLE: Egypt forward Mohamed Salah left Friday night's 1-1 draw with Iran because of a left knee injury, coach Hossam Hassan said. In the 57th minute, Salah was surprisingly replaced by Mostafa Zico. "I talked to Salah and he said he's going to be OK and it's not a big injury," Hassan said.

Leckie, Italiano ruled out of WC

OAKLAND: Injured Australian pair Mathew Leckie and Jacob Italiano were ruled out of the WC ahead of their last-32 clash with Egypt. "Jacob Italiano and Mathew Leckie will unfortunately miss the remainder of the World Cup through injury," the Socceroos said in a statement.

Deschamps back with France

BOSTON: France head coach Didier Deschamps has rejoined the national squad after briefly returning home following his mother's demise, the country's football federation stated on Saturday. At the coach's absence, assistant coach Guy Stephan served as the caretaker manager.

'Defensive philosophy in WC different'

SAPTARSHI C @ Bengaluru

GOALS may decide matches, but at the World Cup, it is defending that has quietly stolen the spotlight. Across the tournament, teams have redefined defensive football with impeccable positioning, compact shapes, coordinated pressing and tactical intelligence. It is this subtle yet significant shift that has most impressed Indian defender Sandesh Jhingan, who believes the tournament has unveiled a completely new defensive philosophy.

Spain defenders fight for the ball against Uruguay's Darwin Nunez (c) | AFP

"If you expect a defender or a centre-back to be constantly making slide-tackles or the goalkeeper to be producing saves, it usually means the defensive structure has already broken down," he told this daily. "The best form of defending is about positioning. A defender should be so well-positioned that the opposition wants to play the pass into the striker, creating what appears to be a one-on-one situation. But because of the defender's body shape, the passing lane never truly opens. That is exactly what we have seen throughout this year's tournament. It has been a completely different defensive philosophy and a fresh tactical approach," he said. "The emphasis on maintaining defensive shape, minimising spaces between the lines and executing swift defensive transitions has made the tournament one of the most tactically sophisticated editions in recent memory," Jhingan, who is also serving as a football expert with ZEE5, the official broadcaster of the World Cup, explained.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Uruguay coach Bielsa accepts blame for exit

AGENCIES @ Guadalajara

MARCELO Bielsa said Uruguay deserved more from all three of their World Cup games, but accepted the critics that will come his way after the two-time winners crashed out in the group stage.

Goalkeeper Fernando Muslera's mistake condemned Bielsa's side to an early exit in a 1-0 defeat to Spain on Friday after disappointing draws against Cape Verde and Saudi Arabia. "We deserved to get seven points and got two," said Bielsa. "We failed to achieve an acceptable ratio between taking the chances we created and the relationship between the goals we conceded and the role our opponents played in scoring them, was also poor. They were avoidable goals. "Journalists and fans of Uruguayan football legitimately want to pin the blame on me. I'm the person responsible and I have to accept it."

Muslera had also been at fault for both Cape Verde's goals in a 2-2 draw and Bielsa said the decision to replace the 40-year-old at half-time had been taken by the player. Bielsa also controversially substituted Real Madrid's Federico Valverde on the hour mark. "Muslera decided to come off at half-time, and I replaced Valverde with Federico Vinas because I wanted to add a more physical presence to the attack."

Bielsa conceded the decision to keep faith with Muslera had backfired.

Timely boost for Red Devils

AGENCIES @ Vancouver

BELGIUM defeated New Zealand 5-1 to book their place in the knockout rounds on Friday, securing their first win of the tournament to finish on top of Group G in Vancouver. A double strike from Arsenal's Leandro Trossard and goals from Kevin De Bruyne, Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Saelemaekers carried the Red Devils into the last 32 in first place ahead of Egypt on goal difference. Egypt claimed the runners-up spot after a 1-1 draw with Iran in Seattle. Meanwhile in Toronto, Senegal became the first African side to score five goals in a World Cup match, a stunning double by Pape Gueye inspiring them to a 5-0 win over 10-man Iraq in their final Group I match.

THE FINAL BEFORE FINALS

India women take on Australia in a must-win contest. A look...

Dropped catches galore

Despite their dominating show against Bangladesh, Harmanpreet Kaur has been the worst fielding side of the tournament. And they cannot afford to do that against the mighty Australians. It could cost them the WC.

Unbeaten Oz on the prowl

The Sophie Molineux-led side knows what it is like to get knocked out of a WC by India. Every time that happened, they came back stronger and became a beast. Unbeaten so far, they would be keen to send India packing especially after the semifinal defeat at the ODI WC.

- Bangladesh vs South Africa | 3 PM
- India vs Australia | 7 PM

Live on Star Sports & JioHotstar @ Lord's

Ancy breaks Anju's national record

ENS @ Bhubaneswar

IT has been a historic day at the National Inter-state Senior Athletics Championships at the Kalinga Stadium on a warm and humid Saturday evening. Two athletes breached marks that were magical until now. Ancy Sojan broke 22-year-old record in women's long jump while national record holder Sarvesh Kushare managed to jump beyond 2.30m when he cleared 2.31m.

Ancy had been in form this season and had been threatening to breach the 6.83m record of legendary and first world championships medallist Anju Bobby George's achieved at the 2004 Athens Olympics. Kushare became the first 2.30m mark.

Ancy Sojan in action | AFI

After a string of creditable jumps – 6.73m, 6.63m, 6.62m and a foul attempt – Ancy did not look entirely satisfied. While she let out a roar in the first attempt to get things off (she was the first in line), little did the jumper from Kerala know that she shattered a record which stood for more than two decades. "I came here to do my personal best jump. In the middle I was a bit tired, but convinced and motivated myself that if you want to win an international medal and to be a world class jumper your tiredness should not over power your body and mind," said Ancy.

Kushare scales new peak

Kushare also rewrote the national record for the men's high jump by leaping 2.31m, breaking a 8-year mark owned by Tejaswin Shankar. In his final attempt, Kushare timed his jump to perfection, barely disturbing the bar.

Ready for Wimbledon title defence: Sinner

AGENCIES @ London

JANNIK Sinner insists he is ready to defend his Wimbledon title despite going into the tournament with a lack of action on grass courts.

Sinner hasn't played since suffering a shock defeat against Juan Manuel Cerundolo in the second round of the French Open in May. The World No 1 blew a two-set lead as he wilted in stifling heat on the clay courts of Roland Garros. Instead of maximising his time on grass ahead of Wimbledon, which starts on Monday, the Italian has opted to rest before stepping up his practice schedule after arriving in London.

It is the first time he has stayed away from the Wimbledon warm-up events prior to playing in the grass-court Grand Slam. "I feel good. I think grass is very different surface obviously. If you play a tournament before here, maybe it's not going the way you would like to, you come here with some doubts. If you don't play any tournament, you don't have these doubts, you just go and play," Sinner told reporters at Wimbledon on Saturday. Sinner opens his bid for a second successive Wimbledon crown against Serbian World No 51 Miomir Kecmanovic on Centre Court on Monday. "First rounds, they're always going to be very tough. I know that mentally. We are preparing ourself in the best possible way," he said.

Raducanu halts practice session

Emma Raducanu's Wimbledon participation was plunged into doubt on Saturday as the former US Open champion halted a practice session before cancelling a press conference. Raducanu hasn't played since finishing as the Queen's Club runner-up earlier in June and was reportedly seen wearing a protective boot on Wednesday.

EXPRESS READ

Devika, Rounak and Srikanth enter semis

FULLERTON (USA): Devika Sihag upset third seed Riko Gunji of Japan 22-20, 21-19, while Rounak Chouhan continued his dream run by beating Misha Zilberman 23-21, 21-11 to reach the semifinals of the US Open badminton meet. Later, Kidambi Srikanth joined them.

COL CP Nanjappa elected KGA president

BENGALURU: COL CP Nanjappa (Retd) elected as the president of Karnataka Golf Association during the Annual General meeting held on Friday. Captain: Roopa Pratap (first lady captain of a golf club in India), Secretary: Hari R Achanta, Treasurer: Devaiah S Thennira.

Manish guides Gulbarga Mystics to thrilling win

HUBBALI: Manish Pandey rolled back the years with an unbeaten 43 as Gulbarga Mystics registered a three-wicket victory over Mysuru Warriors in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 Tournament. Chasing 156,Pandey took them from 77/4 to over the line.

CAN INDIA AVOID SERIES DEFEAT?

As Shreyas Iyer and Co take on Ireland in final T20I, a look...

ON BRINK OF HISTORIC LOSS

Though there is little context to the ongoing T20I series, that India lost to Ireland for the first time in any format came as a blow. Another such result could lead to the first T20I series loss under Gautam Gambhir's tenure.

EYES ON VAIBHAV

After all the hype, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi had to wait his chance. Now, with series on the line, it will be interesting to see if the teen prodigy gets a game. If not, he will have to wait till the T20Is against England.

INDIA VS IRELAND, BELFAST | LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORK, 6PM

Citizenship of India can be acquired by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation, incorporation of territory, termination, renunciation, acquisition of another country, and deprivation

A person born outside India between Jan 26, 1950 and before the 1992 Act shall be an Indian by descent if his father is a citizen of India at the time of his birth

PASSPORT PARADOX

WHAT IT PROVES, WHAT IT DOESN'T

DEPRIVATION OF CITIZENSHIP

The Indian Citizenship Act, 1955 allows the govt to deprive anyone of citizenship if it is satisfied that -

1. The registration or certificate of naturalization was obtained by means of fraud, false representation or concealment of any material fact; or
2. That citizen has shown himself by act or speech to be disloyal or disaffected towards the Constitution; or
3. That citizen has, during the war in which India may be engaged, unlawfully traded or communicated with an enemy or been engaged in or associated with, any business that was to his knowledge carried on in such manner as to assist any enemy in that war; or
4. That citizen has, within five years after registration or naturalisation, been sentenced in any country to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years; or
5. That citizen has been ordinarily resident out of India for a continuous period of seven years, and during that period, has neither been at any time a student of any educational institution in a country outside India or in the service of a Government of India or of an international organisation of which India is a member, nor registered annually in the prescribed manner at an Indian consulate his intention to retain his citizenship of India
6. The Centre shall not deprive a person of citizenship unless it is satisfied that it is not conducive to the public good that person should continue to be a citizen of India

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

A senior External Affairs Ministry (MEA) official on Wednesday reiterated a legally correct but politically consequential distinction: a passport is a travel document, and not, by itself, conclusive proof of citizenship. The clarification was not new. But it revived an old and uncomfortable question in public discourse -- how can a document issued only after verifying citizenship not be treated as conclusive proof of citizenship?

On paper, the legal framework might be clear. Passports are issued under the Passports Act, 1967, while citizenship is governed by the Citizenship Act, 1955. One regulates a document that also enables international travel. The other defines a person's legal status as a citizen of India. Yet the lived reality is more complex. For most Indians, a passport is not just a travel document. It is one of the most authoritative expressions of nationality issued by the state. It carries the name of the Republic of India, is globally recognised, and is issued only after a detailed verification process. That is why the MEA's clarification, though legally precise, appears counter-intuitive to many citizens. If a passport is not conclusive proof of citizenship, the natural question follows: what is?

Why did MEA say this?

A passport serves two functions: it facilitates international travel and identifies the holder as it attests the holder's nationality. Citizenship, however, is a legal status defined exclusively under the Citizenship Act, 1955. The existence of a passport does not, by itself, resolve all possible legal disputes regarding citizenship. The government's position rests on a technical but important distinction. A passport is evidence that the state accepted a claim of citizenship at the time of issuance. It is not, however, a legal declaration that cannot be questioned under any circumstance.

Doesn't the law require citizenship before issuing a passport?

Yes. In most cases, it does. Section 5 of the Passports Act, 1967 empowers authorities to issue passports only after verifying an applicant's credentials and conducting such inquiries as deemed necessary. More importantly, Section 6(2)(a) mandates that a passport must be refused if the applicant is not a citizen of India. This creates an ordinary and reasonable assumption: that anyone holding an Indian passport has already been found to be a citizen by the government after due scrutiny.. In most everyday contexts, this assumption holds true. That is precisely why passports are widely treated as strong proof of nationality.

Then why isn't a passport treated as conclusive proof of citizenship?

Because a passport does not create citizenship. Rather it reflects it. The issuance of a passport is an administrative determination based on documents and declarations at a given point in time. It is not an irreversible legal certification of citizenship under all circumstances. In rare but legally significant situations -- fraudulent documentation, mistaken identity, disputed parentage, illegal migration, or forged records - the underlying question of citizenship may still need to be examined independently under the Citizenship Act. In such cases, courts do not treat a passport as the final word. It becomes strong evidence, but not an unchallengeable proof.

Can India issue a passport to a non-citizen?

Yes, in limited circumstances.

Section 20 of the Passports Act allows the Central government to issue a passport or travel document to a person who is not an Indian citizen if it is considered necessary in the public interest. Government guidelines also provide for specific cases where non-citizens may be issued travel documents. Although such cases are rare, they reinforce an important legal point: possession of a passport cannot, in isolation, be treated as absolute proof of citizenship in every possible legal scenario. This legal flexibility is one reason that holds back elevating passports to conclusive status in disputes.

Is there a frequently cited court case?

Indian courts have consistently held that citizenship must be determined under the Citizenship Act and not inferred from documents alone. A frequently cited example is the Bombay High Court's decision in Babu Abdul Ruf Sardar v. State of Maharashtra. The case involved an individual accused of illegal entry and alleged fraudulent documentation. While rejecting bail, the court observed that possession of documents such as Aadhaar, PAN card, voter identity card, or even a passport does not, by itself, establish Indian citizenship. The court emphasised a key principle: citizenship is a legal status determined under the Citizenship Act, and documents are only pieces of evidence in that determination.

If a passport is not conclusive, what proves citizenship?

There is no single answer.

Unlike many countries that issue a universal citizenship certificate, India does not have a single document automatically issued to every citizen that conclusively establishes citizenship in all contexts. In 2020, when Parliament was asked whether documents such as Aadhaar, voter ID, PAN cards, passports or birth certificates could be treated as definitive proof of citizenship, the Union government declined to designate any one document as conclusive. It reiterated that citizenship is governed by the Citizenship Act, 1955.

So how is citizenship established?

Indian law recognises many ways to citizenship: by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation, or incorporation of territory. Because citizenship can arise through different routes, the evidence required to establish it also varies. Courts and authorities therefore now rely on a combination of documents depending on the facts of each case.

A birth certificate may establish the place of birth and parentage. School records may support identity and continuity. Voter rolls may indicate long-term residence and recognition by electoral authorities. Land records and ancestral documents may help establish lineage. Citizenship certificates, where issued, serve as direct proof for those who acquired citizenship through registration or naturalisation.

A passport, in this chain, is strong corroborative evidence, but not the sole determinant. In disputes, the authorities assess the totality of evidence rather than relying on a single document.

Then, is there a citizenship certificate for all Indians?

No. India does not issue a universal citizenship card or certificate to all citizens. Citizenship certificates exist only for those who acquire citizenship through registration or naturalisation. The vast majority of Indians, who are citizens by birth, do not possess any standalone citizenship certificate. This absence is at the heart of the current paradox: citizenship is universal, documentation isn't.

Why does this issue matter now?

For decades, citizenship was rarely questioned in ordinary administrative life. Citizens interacted with the state through a web of documents — birth certificates, voter IDs, passports, school records and ration cards. But that consensus has weakened in recent years. Citizenship verification exercises, migration-related disputes, and documentation-driven processes have brought new scrutiny to old records. The Assam NRC exercise, in particular, highlighted how fragile documentation systems can become when citizenship is subjected to strict legal examination. Small inconsistencies in names, dates or spelling have had disproportionate consequences for many individuals. Against this backdrop, the MEA's clarification is not just legal housekeeping. It touches a deeper administrative reality: India relies on fragmented documentation to establish something as fundamental as citizenship.

Does this reduce the importance of a passport?

No. A passport remains one of the most rigorously verified documents issued by India. It is globally trusted because other countries rely on India's verification process. In practical terms, it is often the strongest and most widely accepted evidence of Indian nationality an individual can carry.

Does the MEA clarification change the passport's role in electoral roll verification?

No. Election Commission officials have clarified that passport continues to be one of the 12 valid supporting documents applicants may submit during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to establish their eligibility for inclusion. There has been no change in policy. They also stressed that a passport has never been treated as conclusive proof of citizenship on its own but as one of several supporting documents considered by the Electoral Registration Officer, who examines the overall evidence before taking a decision. Passports were similarly accepted during the Bihar SIR, Assam's special revision exercise and subsequent electoral roll revision drives.

What is the larger lesson?

The real issue is not the passport; it's the system around it. India's civil registration architecture evolved unevenly over decades. Birth records in many parts of the country remain incomplete or inconsistent. Older documentation often contains discrepancies in names, dates and places of birth. Archival systems are fragmented across institutions. The result is a system where citizenship is rarely proved through a single authoritative document, but instead seen as reconstructed through multiple records in many cases. That may work in normal circumstances.

What the US-Iran MoU means, why it matters, what happens next

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

A seemingly fragile but potentially consequential diplomatic opening has emerged between the United States and Iran after both sides agreed to a 14-point Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at extending the ceasefire that followed months of war involving Iran, the US and Israel. The agreement formally signed by US President Donald Trump and endorsed by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian seeks to halt military hostilities, reopen the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, and create a framework for negotiating a broader settlement within 60 days.

The understanding is significant not only because it attempts to prevent a return to war, but also because it links Iran's future economic recovery to its willingness to address international concerns over its nuclear programme. The document outlines a phased process under which sanctions relief, access to frozen assets and reconstruction assistance would be tied to Iranian compliance with commitments on uranium enrichment and transparency of its nuclear programme.

However, it is far from a final peace deal. Many of its contentious issues like the future of Iran's nuclear programme, the sequencing of sanctions relief, the release of frozen assets and regional security arrangements have been deferred to future negotiations. The MoU therefore serves less as a comprehensive settlement and more as a roadmap for reaching one. The full text of what was called the 14-point "Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding" was read out by a senior US administration official during a briefing with media organisations including the BBC and CNN. While many of the provisions will require further negotiations and implementation mechanisms, the MoU offers the clearest picture yet of how both sides envision a path from a fragile ceasefire to a broader political agreement.

What exactly is the US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding?

The MoU is a 14-point political agreement or understanding that establishes the broad parameters for a ceasefire and future negotiations between Washington and Tehran. It is not a final treaty. Instead, it creates a framework under which both sides commit to negotiating a comprehensive agreement within 60 days. The document also sets out immediate steps that both countries are expected to take while those negotiations continue.

The Trump administration has described the arrangement as "performance-based", which fundamentally means Iran receives economic benefits only if Tehran fulfils its commitments.

Why was the agreement needed?

The understanding comes after months of conflict that began on February 28 and escalated into direct military confrontation involving the US, Iran and Israel. The fighting disrupted maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, heightened fears of a wider regional war, damaged infrastructure and deepened concerns over Iran's nuclear programme.

The ceasefire announced in April halted active hostilities, but both sides required a more structured arrangement to prevent renewed conflict and establish a pathway towards a broader settlement.

What does the agreement say about ending the war?

The first point of the MoU commits the US, Iran and their allies to the "immediate and permanent termination" of military operations. The agreement mentions that neither side will initiate military action, threaten the use of force or engage in hostile activities against the other. It also extends beyond the US-Iran relationship by including commitments relating to Lebanon, reflecting concerns about the role of regional actors and proxy forces in any future escalation.

However, the document leaves unanswered questions about how other regional players, most importantly Israel, will implement these provisions.

What is the significance of the Strait of Hormuz?

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important energy chokepoints. Roughly a fifth of global oil supplies pass through the narrow waterway linking the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. Any disruption there has immediate consequences for global energy markets. Under the understanding, Iran commits to facilitating the safe passage of commercial vessels through the strait without imposing charges for 60 days. Shipping traffic is expected to resume immediately, although demining operations and the removal of military obstacles are expected to take several weeks. The reopening of the strait is significant because it reduces pressure on global oil markets and international trade routes.

What does the US agree to do?

The United States has undertaken several major commitments. First, it will begin removing its naval blockade and other restrictions affecting Iran's maritime activities. The blockade is expected to be fully lifted within 30 days. Second, Washington has pledged not to impose new sanctions during the interim negotiation period. Third, it will issue waivers allowing Iranian crude oil exports and associated financial transactions to resume. The US has also committed to facilitating the release of Iranian assets that remain frozen or restricted abroad. The agreement also envisages the eventual removal of all US sanctions against Iran as part of a final settlement.

Is the US giving Iran $300 billion?

Not directly. One of the most widely discussed provisions is a commitment to develop a reconstruction and economic development plan worth at least $300 billion. However, the MoU does not require the United States government to contribute money to that fund. Instead, Washington would facilitate investment and financial activity by regional partners and international businesses through sanctions waivers, licences and regulatory approvals.

What happens to sanctions?

The agreement outlines the eventual but conditional removal of sanctions on Iran, including US primary and secondary sanctions, certain UN-related restrictions and other nuclear-linked international measures, though no clear timeline has been set. The sequencing of relief remains a major hurdle, with Washington insisting it be tied to compliance while Tehran seeks swift and guaranteed economic benefits.

What does Iran agree to on nuclear weapons?

The most important Iranian commitment is that it will not develop or acquire a nuclear weapon.The MoU establishes future negotiations to determine how Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium will be handled. For years, the US and its allies have argued that Iran's enrichment activities could eventually provide the material necessary for a nuclear weapon. Iran has consistently maintained that its nuclear programme is intended for peaceful purposes. The understanding seeks to bridge that divide by establishing technical negotiations under international supervision or verification by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

So, what happens to Iran's enriched uranium?

The agreement does not provide a final answer. Instead, it says both countries will negotiate a mutually acceptable mechanism for dealing with Iran's stockpile. At a minimum, the material would be "downblended" under IAEA supervision. Downblending means reducing the concentration of enriched uranium so that it cannot be readily used for weapons purposes. The exact quantity of uranium involved, the timeline for disposal and the future scope of Iranian enrichment remain subjects for negotiation.

What role will the IAEA play?

The IAEA is expected to serve as the central verification body under the agreement, with responsibilities including monitoring uranium stockpiles, verifying downblending activities, inspecting nuclear facilities and reporting on compliance. Its findings are likely to play a key role in determining whether Iran qualifies for further sanctions relief.

What about frozen Iranian assets?

Over the years, billions of dollars belonging to Iran have been frozen or restricted in foreign jurisdictions due to sanctions. Iran has long demanded access to these funds. The MoU says that the US will facilitate the release of frozen assets and make them available for use by the Iranian government and designated beneficiaries. The exact procedures remain under negotiation, but the provision represents a major economic incentive for Tehran.

How will compliance be monitored?

The agreement calls for the creation of an executive monitoring mechanism. Although few details have been released, the body is expected to oversee implementation of the MoU and track compliance by both sides. Such mechanisms are common in arms control and ceasefire arrangements for resolving disputes and verifying commitments.

What happens over the next 60 days?

Negotiators from the US and Iran must turn broad political commitments in the MoU into a detailed, enforceable final agreement, addressing unresolved issues including Iran's enrichment programme, sanctions removal pace, frozen assets, security guarantees, regional military arrangements and Strait of Hormuz administration, with the 60-day timeline extendable by mutual agreement.